FBIS DAILY REPORT

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GRINSPUN SPOKESMAN SAYS ACCORD WITH IMF NEAR

PY201934 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] (Edgardo Silvercasten), an Economy Ministry spokesman, this morning announced in a telephone call from Washington that Argentina and the IMF may reach an agreement over the Argentine foreign debt between tomorrow and Saturday.

During the telephone call from Washington, where the spokesman is accompanying Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun, he said that there is strong pressure from the creditor banks in the negotiations. He said that Argentina has already concluded the technical work with the IMF mission and therefore, Argentina has nothing more to say on this matter, because it is now up to the IMF. The spokesman explained that, as the minister said yesterday, we are not going to solve the accounting problems of the creditor banks because we are not holding their books. He said this in allusion to the upcoming expiration date of the services on a portion of the foreign debt.

(Silvercasten) said that Argentina will not be able to begin a recovery process if it does not solve its foreign debt problem, and that the foreign debt problem cannot be solved if there is no recovery plan. He added that this is well known by the creditor banks and the IMF. The spokesman said that Grinspun will today hold formal meetings with U.S. Treasury Secretary Donald Regan; head of the Federal Reserve Bank, Paul Faulker; and World Bank President Alden Clausen. He added that yesterday's meeting between Grinspun and IMF Managing Director Jacques de Larosiere was very cordial. Grinspun explained to De Larosiere that Argentina has concluded the technical work with the IMF mission.

(Silvercasten) also disclosed that Grinspun is preparing the speech he is going to deliver tomorrow before the Committee of 24, which is made up of developing countries and of which Argentina has the vice presidency. The spokesman also indicated that informal contacts were today held with IMF officials who are in charge of approving the memorandum of understanding prepared by Argentina and the IMF mission that visited Buenos Aires recently. In conclusion, (Silvercasten) stated that the fact that the technical work is finished does not mean that a final agreement has been reached because the work must be approved by the IMF managing director and then submitted to the IMF Executive Board.

FOREIGN TRADE FIGURES SHOW INCREASE

PY202321 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Sep 84 p 11

[Text] (DYN) -- The balance of trade surplus for the first half of the year was 2.64 billion (thousand million) dollars, 40.6 percent higher than the same period of 1983. Exports were up 14 percent to 4.61 billion dollars, whereas imports were down 9.1 percen to 1.96 billion dollars.

Last June's exports and imports amounted to 803 million and 425 million dollars, produci a trade surplus of 377 million dollars, 8.6 higher than in June of 1983.

GOVERNMENT TO CREATE HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE

PY202318 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Sep 84 p 11

[By Patricia I. Vazquez and Dougles Tweedale]

[Text] The government will create a permanent under secretariat for human rights to replace the National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons (Conadep) which is to conclude its mission after it presents its report to President Raul Alfonsin, Foreign Relations Ministry Human Rights Director Ambassador Horacio Ravenna said yesterday.

Ravenna said that the president is likely to announce the creation of the new under secretariat this afternoon, when he receives the Conadep's report at 7 p.m. The new grouping would operate under the Interior Ministry.

"This is the end of a stage in search of the truth," Ravenna said, explaining that the new organism would have "broader" powers than the Conadep. "Now it is time to continue the search for justice" he added.

Ravenna said the under secretariat will act as a reception centre for new testimony about violations of human rights "both in the past and in the future, should there be any." The main difference between the new office and the Conadep, Ravenna said, will be that the under secretariat will be permanent and "will be concerned with the future as well as the past." He said the new office will continue the Conadep's investigations into abuses committed under the military government, but did not comment on what specific powers it would have to carry out its investigations. Ravenna said he did not know who would head the new under secretariat and denied reports that he had been offered the post by President Alfonsin.

Office Created

PY210128 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Sep 84

[Text] The creation of the Under Secretariat for Human Rights Affairs has been officially confirmed. This secretariat will fall under the jurisdiction of the Interior Ministry.

COMMISSION TO SUBMIT RIGHTS REPORT TO ALFONSIN

PY202301 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- After nine months of work the National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons (Conadep) is to submit to President Raul Alfonsin this evening its findings on human rights violations during the former military regime. Conadep's chairman, writer Ernesto Sabato, and the 11 other commission members will hand in a 300-page summary of the more than 8,000 testimonies received and the floor plans of some 260 clandestine detention centres. A much shorter summary will be released to the press.

Simultaneously, major political parties and human rights groups will join a demonstration at Plaza de Mayo to express their support for Conadep's work and to demand that its findings be used to press charges against those guilty of rights violations.

Retired General Ramon Camps, the former Buenos Aires police chief who is being court-martialled for alleged violations under his command, filed a writ demanding that Federal Judge Nestor Biondi "order the president" and Conadep not to publish the names of military servicemen and policemen included in the report. Conadep sources said recently the names of 200 of the 1,300 officers against whom incriminating evidence was gathered would be published shortly.

Camps, who is under rigorous preventive arrest on the orders of the Armed Forces Supreme Council, charged that the presidential investigative commission is "set on punishing the Armed Forces to clear the way for Marxist activities." He objects to the credentials of the presidentially-appointed Conadep members to carry out the investigations, the findings of which will be reported today, described Sabato as a "Marxist writer," and warned that the Conadep report is part of a plot to turn Argentina into "another Nicaragua." Camps said Marxists had "infiltrated the main posts in education and culture."

"The international left" needs to "intimidate...the Armed Forces, and the best way to do this is to show them what happens to those who fought against Marxism," Camps said. Camps warned that publishing names will violate both "implicit" constitutional rights and explicit laws, in that it will blemish the "honour" of "blameless" officers.

Although the Peronists reversed a previous decision not to back the Plaza de Mayo demonstration, they said they would not call on their members to attend it, and neither they nor the Radicals nor the seven other parties which belong to the Metropolitan Assembly for the Defence of Democracy will join a march from there to the courts building, which will be staged by five other parties -- including Communists, Intransigents and Christian Democrats -- and six left-wing Peronist groupings which belong to the Metropolitan Forum for Liberation.

Church sources said the episcopate would maintain a noncommittal attitude towards the Conadep report but expressed hopes that it will "open a possibility" to solve the human rights issue.

Although the demonstration was scheduled to coincide with the traditional Thursday rally of the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo, this group has decided not to join it and to continue pressing for the appearance of the missing. Major human rights groups expected at the demonstration are the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights (APDH), the Argentine League for the Rights of Man, and the Ecumenical Human Rights Movement. The General Confederation of Labour (CGT), which had originally pledged support for the demonstration, pulled out, contending that it was being used for "political purposes." It nevertheless expressed support for Conadep's work. The developmentist (MID) youth said it would join the demonstration to "call for justice and truth."

Clash During Rights Demonstration

PY210240 [Editorial Report] Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish at 2245 GMT on 20 September reports that "groups of the Radical Civic Union [UCR], the Justicialist Party, and the (Trotskiyite) Workers Party were involved in incidents" while marching toward Plaza de Mayo to attend the demonstration to mark the handing over of the human rights report prepared by the National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons (Conadep) to Argentine President Raul Alfonsin.

"A group of Peronist youths tried to stop a column headed by various UCR leaders and lawmakers, including Leopoldo Moreau and Marcelo Stubrin. The Peronists were forced to withdraw and took positions between the UCR column and the one of the Workers Party. Stubrin and Moreau, together with several members of the UCR column, disloged the Peronists and the demonstrators of the Workers Party while the latter were chanting 'Where is the social justice and democracy with our comrades in jail and the soldier boys scot-free.' The UCR column moved forward but later there were a few fistfights involving members of the Workers Party."

The same source at 2247 GMT on the same day reported that several youths were injured during incidents which took place on Avenida de Mayo between Tacuari and Piedras Streets involving UCR and Workers Party militants. It added that the youths engaged in fistfights and beat each other with the sticks they used to carry their signs and banners. "Some of them had to be given first aid for bloody head injuries. A gunshot was heard but no one knows the source."

The same source at 2315 GMT on the same day reported that "UCR and Communist Party militants engaged in fistfights at the corner of Avenida de Mayo and Peru Street. Several youths were injured."

URUGUAYAN OPPOSITION LEADER ADDRESSES RALLY

PY201552 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0130 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Sep (NA) -- General Liber Seregni, the outlawed leader of Uruguay's Broad Front, today stated here that the agreement that the Uruguayan political groups have reached with the military regime headed by General Gregorio Alvarez gives the possibility of an "unlimited amnesty as of March 1985." Seregni, who was the only speaker during a rally held at the intersection of Corrientes and Maipu Streets in downtown Buenos Aires, received a standing ovation from a crowd of approximately 10,000. The Uruguayan politician announced that if his party wins the elections, it will seek "consensus and national unity." He added that it will not call for another election to allow the participation of outlawed groups.

Seregni praised the "warmness and receptivity" that characterized his meeting with President Raul Alfonsin yesterday, and said that "we are now returning to Uruguay full of hope." Seregni added: "We came to Argentina to ask the democratic government to suggest measures to attain a transition toward democracy in Uruguay, the renegotiation of the foreign debt, and the replacement of Uruguay's predatory neoliberal economic system by another system."

Gen Seregni, who has served an 11-year prison term, praised the Latin American integration process and the revolutionary struggles in the continent, placing emphasis on the Sandinist process.

Speaking calmly and at times humorously, Seregni asserted that the Broad Front is the only Uruguayan party that "does not have any ties with imperialism, but over the past few years Uruguay has felt the touch of imperialism through the installation of foreign banks." Seregni added that all parties have agreed to reactivate the economy through increased employment, a redistribution of income, and an increase in wages. "We will negotiate with foreign private banks, renegotiate our debt based on just conditions, and adopt concerted actions with Uruguay's real and potential allies to reactivate the country in the near future," he stressed.

Seregni said that despite the proscriptions, the agreement reached with the military is "decent," because "we achieved the release of 200 political prisoners, the lifting of restrictions on the freedoms of the process and expression, and particularly the lifting of the proscription on the Broad Front." Seregni said that the agreement "compels future implementation of an unlimited amnesty for all political prisoners and the adoption of measures to allow all exiles to return to Uruguay."

Referring to the military process, Seregni described it as a "dark event" that started on 27 November 1973 and that has caused "scores of dead, missing, and tortured people, and approximately 400,000 exiles who have settled in 40 countries from Canada to Patagonia and from Sweden to Australia." Seregni paid homage to Zelmar Michelini and Gutierrez Ril, who were murdered in Buenos Aires.

In the afternoon, Seregni granted a press conference during which he announced that his party "will not promote revenge," but rather "the strengthening of civilian courts, which will be in charge of prosecuting all culprits. Seregni concluded that "after living under a dictatorship for 11 years, the Uruguayan people are currently clearly aware of their real enemy and they see our party in a very different way than they did in 1971."

STATEMENT ISSUED ON ARGENTINA'S ALFONSIN VISIT

PY201802 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0053 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Tarija, Bolivia, 19 Sep (TELAM) -- The Argentine Government today stated that it supports the efforts that President Hernan Siles Zuazo is making in the struggle against drug trafficking and added that Argentina is studying ways to cooperate both bilaterally and multilaterally in these efforts. This statement was issued this afternoon at the conclusion of the meeting that the two presidents held at the prefect's hotel in Tarija, Bolivia.

The statement, which was read by Bolivian Interior Under Secretary Jorge Crespo and Argentine Under Secretary for Latin American Affairs Raul Alconada Sempe, also states that a timetable for settling the debt over the purchase of Bolivian gas in 1984 has been agreed upon. The statement adds that a $15-million bridge loan has been granted and that its terms have been set. Thus, the planning for the multinational venture, to which Venezuela and Brazil contributed the $15 million, has concluded.

The statement says that the two presidents would like to see the completion of the third phase of the studies for the exploitation of the Pilcomayo River by Argentina, Paraguay, and Bolivia, with the OAS providing technical assistance. The studies include pluvial and morphological analyses, in addition to an analysis of sedimentation in the river basin.

It was also agreed that Argentina will supply soybean to the Villamontes edible oil factory as well as sign a contract to allow the final product to enter Argentina or be exported to third countries. With regard to the Tarija-San Lorenzo Road, it was reported that Argentina will pave the part that has not yet been paved, but that the work will begin after the rainy season.

BILL PRESENTED ON SILES ZUAZO'S SUSPENSION

PY191930 Paris AFP in Spanish 1500 GMT 19 Sep 84

[Text] La Paz, 19 Sep (AFP) -- It was reported here today that Bolivian Deputy Carlos Valverde Barbery has presented a bill proposing the suspension of President Hernan Siles Zuazo's term of office and that his functions will be taken over by Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora.

Valverde Barbery based his bill on rumors that have circulated over the past few days that Siles Zuazo reportedly authorized Rafael Otazu, president of the National Council for the Struggle Against Drug Trafficking, to hold a meeting with the kingpin of cocaine trafficking, Roberto Suarez Gomez. Later, President Siles Zuazo's private secretary, Mario Alarcon Lahore, denied that such an authorization was granted.

The bill presented by Valverde Barbery, who last year resigned from the rightist Bolivian Socialist Falange, and therefore is not the member of any party at this moment, has been submitted to the Commission for Constitutional, Justice, and Judicial Policy, which is subordinate to the Chamber of Deputies.

FINANCE MINISTER ON DEBT PAYMENT POSTPONED

PY191350 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 19 Sep 84

[Text] Finance Minister Oscar Bonifaz has confirmed the government's decision to postpone the payment of the interest and principal on the foreign debt owned to private international banks. He also disclosed that it has not been decided whether he will travel to the United States to attend the governors' meeting of the IMF and the World Bank.

In answer to a question, Bonifaz said that if he travels to the United States, he will obviously take a definite proposal from the government. Bonifaz said:

[Begin recording] If I go, a decision that has not yet been made, I will undoubtedly take a proposal on the government's position that has already been defined regarding the foreign debt owed to private international banks. It has been decided that Bolivia is not in any condition to honor it, not because of stubbornness but because of a (?national) need in view of the fact that there are no possibilities to really pay the interest and much less the principal demanded by the private international banks. [end recording]

In view of the position adopted by the rich countries, the finance minister said that these countries should understand the reasons for the debtor countries defending their legitimate interests. The private international banks have not accepted the postponement of the foreign debt payment proposed by the developing countries. Bonifaz added:

[Begin recording] But we feel differently. We believe that the international banks should understand the position of the developing countries, especially the case of Bolivia, a country that has relatively little economic development and that is in a poor situation. This is why Bolivia joined the Andean Pact. Therefore, we are not in any position to pay the debt to the private international banks. [end recording]

Bonifaz indicated that responsible studies on the country's economic problems are currently being carried out and that after the studies are concluded a decision will be made as to whether or not new economic measures will be implemented.

DECREES ON FOREIGN CURRENCY LOAN REPAYMENTS

PY171318 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Sep 84

[Text] The government yesterday approved two decrees regulating the repayment of foreign currency loans granted and guaranteed by the Central Bank, the state bank, and development banks. The government hopes that the decrees will reduce speculation with dollars.

The first decree, which is entitled "Guaranteed Loans," says:

Considering the default by the debtor compels the guarantor to comply with the obligation under the agreed terms and to assume all effects to safeguard its honor and prestige;

Therefore, it is necessary to protect the rights of the guarantor who, acting in good faith, runs the risk of having to meet the debtor's obligation in case of default;

The Council of Ministers decrees:

Article 1: Foreign currency obligations contracted with the guarantee of the Central Bank of Bolivia, the state bank, and the state development banks must be unavoidably paid by the main debtor in the same currency they were contracted.

Article 2: All foreign currency obligation contracted with the guarantee of the Central Bank of Bolivia, the state bank, and the state development banks that are partially or totally paid by the guarantor must be necessarily reimbursed to it in the same currency they were contracted, including interest and surcharges.

Article 3: All legal provisions contrary to this decree are hereby abrogated.

The second decree, which is entitled "Direct Credits," says:

All legal rules contrary to this decree are hereby abrogated. The ministers of finance, planning, and coordination are charged with the implementation of this decree.

Article 1: All loans granted by the Central Bank of Bolivia to the state bank and by the state development banks to private individuals and corporations must be repaid with their corresponding interest and surcharges in the same currency they were contracted or their equivalent in Bolivian pesos at the rate of exchange in force when payments are made.

COB ASKS FOR MINIMUM SALARY ADJUSTMENT

PY191941 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 19 Sep 84

[Excerpt] COB, [Bolivian Labor Federation] is going to propose to the government the implementation of the COB emergency economic and social program to overcome the crisis affecting the country that was created by the regime's incoherent economic policies. This was stated by COB Executive Secretary Juan Lechin Oquendo.

The new COB national Executive Board yesterday met for the first time to study the country's political situation, a government invitation for a meeting, and other issues. The COB has agreed to meet with the government of the Democratic and Popular Unity tomorrow afternoon.

The COB leaders will ask the government for the implementation of the proposals approved by the latest COB congress. The COB created two committees to study the issues to be discussed during the meeting with government officials. The economic committee, which began working yesterday, is going to include new elements in the emergency economic and social program approved by the COB in Cochabamba. The document will include the implementation of the minimum salary with an adjustable scale aimed at preserving the buying power of salaries.

MILITARY CONTINUES ANTIDRUG OPERATIONS IN CHAPARE

PY171424 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Sep 84

[Text] Sources of the National Commission for the Struggle Against Drug Trafficking have reported that the Armed Forces are continuing to conduct antidrug trafficking operations in the military zone in Chapare.

Similarly, the National Dangerous Drug Control Department has reported that personnel of the Police Mobile Unit for Rural Areas, Umopar, which are under the [word indistinct], abandoned the Chapare area over 10 days ago. Therefore, the Armed Forces are now exclusively in charge of controlling drug trafficking in Chapare.

It has also been reported that Chapare remains under a state of military emergency and that the military forces deployed there during the first week of August continue to control the area.

A report issued by USIS in La Paz, states that the special police forces that were deployed to Chapare were in charge of guaranteeing the normal development of activities, particularly police operations and investigations. Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata later reported that the Umopar forces were withdrawn from Chapare to be deployed elsewhere.

Rafael Otazo, former president of the National Commission for the Struggle Against Drug Trafficking, said before he was removed from his post that the Umopar forces that were deployed in Chapare did not have adequate logistic support and had to be withdrawn because they lacked food.

HANDGRENADE HURLED INTO FSB REGIONAL OFFICE

PY200056 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 15 Sep 84 p 7

[Text] Santa Cruz -- The regional secretariat of the FSB [Bolivian Socialist Falange] has been the target of a terrorist attack perpetrated by a group of unidentified persons that detonated a highly explosive handgrenade inside the offices of this party early this morning. The explosive device, hurled into the offices of the party by a group of unidentified persons at approximately 0130 this morning, caused serious damage to the building. The explosive cracked the walls and shattered the windows of the FSB office as well as those of neighboring buildings. Moreover, a great quantity of flags and political emblems and symbols were destroyed by grenade fragments.

BRIEFS

LA PAZ, TACNA ROAD AGREEMENT -- The development corporation of La Paz and the development corporation of Tacna, Peru, have signed an agreement to link the Tacna-La Paz international road. The ceremony was held in the town of Coilpa, Peru, which borders Bolivia, this past weekend. [Excerpt] [La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Aug 84 PY]

GOLD SALES -- Mining and Metallurgy Minister Carlos Carvajal has reported that Bolivia has managed to export more than 200 kg of gold, worth approximately $2 million. The minister said that this gold was acquired by the Bolivian Mining Bank with funds supplied by the Central Bank. He added that during the first half of this year an average of 80 kg of gold was purchased every month from prospectors and indicated that the goal is 300 kg per month for which the Central Bank will supply more funds. [Summary] [La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT GMT 29 Aug 84 PY]

IDB LOAN TO MINES -- The National Mining Council has begun a broad mining development program with the support of the IDB, which recently approved the granting of a $25-million loan for the reactivation of small- and medium-size mines. This loan has been granted for the establishment of new mines and for the expansion or reactivation of those under exploitation. It is also intended for developing of new technology, increasing production, reducing costs, creating new job opportunities, training workers, and updating businessmen's knowledge of the use of credits. [Excerpt] [La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Sep 84 PY]

GAS, OIL PRODUCTION -- A report from YPFB [Bolivian Government Oil Deposits] in Santa Cruz says that the total oil production during the first half of 1984 amounts to 3,799,700 barrels. It also reports that YPFB gas production during the same period totaled 36,411,740 cubic feet. [Summary] [La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Sep 84 PY]

HYDROCARBONS DISCOVERES -- La Paz, 8 Sep (AFP) -- It has been reported in La Paz that the Anglo-Dutch Shell company has discovered important hydrocarbons basins in La Paz and El Beni Departments. The basins will permit the exportation of 50,000 barrels of oil daily in the next few years, and this amount could increase to 200,000 barrels dialy if other basins are discovered in Ayopaya Province, in Cochabamba Department. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1709 GMT 8 Sep 84 PY]

MEDICAL BULLETIN ISSUED ON FIGUEIREDO'S HEALTH

PY210043 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] At the Ca d'Oro Hotel where President Joao Figueiredo is staying during his stay in Sao Paulo until 23 September, the Presidential Press Secretariat has issued a medical bulletin signed by Dr Haruo Nishimura.

The bulletin reads as follows: President Joao Figueiredo returned to the clinic to proceed today with the physiotherapeutic treatment. The patient is walking in a normal manner and showing considerable improvement so far.

SARAIVA GUERREIRO MEETS WITH HENRY KISSINGER

PY210055 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] The Latin American foreign debt was today the main topic of the talk between Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in Brasilia. During the 1-and-1/2-hour meeting, Kissinger defended the need for political government-to-government negotiations to solve the problem of the foreign debt in the countries of the continent. In turn, Saraiva Guerreiro made a detailed exposition on the political, economic, and social implications of the foreign debt problem.

COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF FIRMENICH'S EXTRADITION

PY210258 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0055 GMT 21 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Rio de Janeiro, 20 Sep (EFE) -- A Brazilian court today ruled in favor of extraditing Montonero leader Eduardo Firmenich, thus complying with a request of the Argentine Government.

The lawyers defending the Argentine guerrilla were awaiting the court ruling because it means that they will now have 5 days to appeal the sentence. Lawyers Evaristo de Moraes and Jose Paulo Sepulveda today announced that they will make another effort to stop the Argentine politician's extradition. If the appeal fails, Firmenich will be given 60 days to leave Brazil.

GUIMARAES, CHAVES REACT TO FIGUEIREDO SPEECH

PY201650 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Worrying and threatening for some, opportune and positive for others is how yesterday's speech by President Figueiredo, broadcast over a national radio and television network, has been described in political circles. There had been great expectations in Brasilia regarding this speech, and as usual many people had expected the worst.

[Begin Carlos Rodrigues recording from Brasilia] Brasilia followed President Figueiredo's speech with great interest. Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB], has told Radio Bandeirantes that there is no reason for concern regarding the electoral campaign and the future government of Tancredo Neves should he win the elections in the Electoral College.

[Guimareas] I understand that there is no reason at all for concern. In the case of Tancredo Neves, he has been a candidate for senator, a candidate for governor, and the governor of one of the principal states of the Federation, where he had the opportunity to demonstrate his personality and reliability and his support for the stability of the nation. There is no possibility, with Tancredo Neves and with the PMDB, for revanchism or hatred.

The nation must be called upon to work constructively to organize itself in accordance with the legal, economic, and social structures. [end recording]

Deputy Nelson Marchezan, Social Democratic Party [PDS] leader, feels that the president's warning is opportune and is valid for all.

Workers Party [PT] leader Airton Soares, on the other hand, feels that Figueiredo's speech could indicate the government's intention to adopt emergency measures during the Electoral College session.

[Begin Soares recording] I did not like the speech General Figueiredo made, especially since he spoke about the Goiana rally as if it were something new, as if it were something that had not taken place before. We had other rallies in 1982, and much more violent, better organized, and much more (?cautious) regarding the federal government, and the federal candidates. Paulo Maluf was molded in Sao Paulo and not in Goiana. Therefore, Figueriedo's warning is rather worrisome. [end recording]

Former Governor Tancredo Neves, the opposition candidate for the presidency, did not listen to Figueiredo's speech because at the time he was flying from Rio de Janeiro to Brasilia, where he arrived at approximately 2100 last night.

But PDS presidential hopeful Paulo Maluf considered the speech made by the president as positive. He said that it strengthened the support for his candidacy. [end recording]

There are also some who said Figueiredo's speech was aggressive. In fact, he only condemned some of the methods that are being used to support Neves' candidacy.

Vice President Aureliano Chaves received the speech serenely. He said that at any rally, elements of the left and of the right are always present. He added that this fact is not so important. Politically, the speech was considered tranquilizing.

MILITARY REFUTES COLUMN ACCUSING SOLDIERS

PY201615 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Sep 84

[Text] The Planalto Military Command today released the following note to the press: The Castello Column, which is published by several newspapers and which today, 19 September, is signed by Ricardo Noblat, the acting regional editor of JORNAL DO BRASIL in Brasilia, has published the following paragraph:

As for the rest, although trying to contribute to the maintenance of the normal development of the political process, Mr Tancredo Neves feels that abuses are part of an electoral contest, either by one side or the other. Emotions are a privilege of human beings, and personal interests channel the procedures. In the same manner in which the red flags must be withdrawn so as not to serve as a pretext to those who are dissatisfied, it is expected that what happened in Goiania, when soldiers of an Army unit were caught red-handed painting walls with "slogans" [in English] that are offensive to the opposition candidate, will not be repeated in Belem. The Planalto Military Command claims that the reported imprisonment of two soldiers of an Army unit is false. These soldiers reportedly were caught red-handed painting walls with slogans that are offensive to the opposition candidate. The Army units in Goiania were placed in a state of alert on 14 September. The officers of the Planalto Military Command unit, and of other units, were on that date forbidden go into to that city.

The above-mentioned paragraph also refers to a reported action by Army personnel to prevent the hoisting of red flags during the rally.

It is appropriate to recall that:

A. The Armed Forces, which are indispensable for the implementation of the nation's security policy, are assigned with the roles of defending the fatherland and guaranteeing the three branches which have been constituted according to the law and order;

B. The Communist Party, which was ostensibly represented by red flags at the rally held on 14 September in Goiania, is an organization proscribed from Brazilian political life, and any attempt to promote its functioning is a crime provided for in the national security law;

C. Comparisons between the Brazilian Army and the Communist Party are unacceptable because they are unpatriotic and even frivolous and because the performance of one or the other cannot be looked at from the same point of view.

PDS POLITICIANS REPORTEDLY WANT MALUF REPLACED

PY201457 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Yes was the laconic reply given by Rio Grande do Sul Governor Jair Soares in answer to a question on the possibility of replacing the Social Democratic Party [PDS] presidential candidate. PDS politicians dissatisfied with the convention results want the substitution of Paulo Maluf. I believe that a candidate who could unite the party could also lead it to victory in the Electoral College in January 1985, Soares stated.

MILITARY MINISTERS RECOMMEND SUPPORT FOR MALUF

PY210257 [Editorial Report] Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese on page 6 of its 20 September issue carried a report on "suggestions made by the military ministers to President Figueiredo to strengthen the position of Paulo Maluf as presidential candidate."

The item lists 13 different suggestions, the first of which calls for "an explicit declaration by the nation's president that he campaign for his party together with all his ministers, with live nationwide coverage." Suggestion three calls for "systematic meetings of the four military ministers to follow up the political process, meetings that will also have social communication purposes." Another suggestion, number 10, calls for "the creation of a group to put pressure on the press under the guidance of the chief of the Military Household, with the support of National Telecommunications Department [Dentel], the Internal Revenue Office, the National Intelligence Service [SNI], and the presidential spokesman, without making an official announcement of the creation of this group."

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese on page 4 of its 20 September issue carries a report by its Brazilia reporter, Roberto Stefanelli, saying that "the Maluf followers yesterday circulated through Congress a forged document supposedly representing the wishes of the military that the government fully supports the candidacy of Paulo Maluf. This report says that "the 3-page text caused surprise in Brasilia military circles, in the Planalto Palace, and in Congress. Among many other adjectives applied to the document, the presidency referred to it as "crooked."

Stefanelli's report adds that "no one has assumed responsibility for the document, which appeared magically amid insinuations that it was the result of a meeting between President Figueiredo and the military ministers on 17 September. This was emphatically denied by Planalto Palace spokesman Carlos Atila."

The FOLHA report notes that the document has gross errors, such as the spelling of the first name of the planning minister with an "n," not an "m" as it should be; and the reference, in suggestion number 10, to the military "household," a term that is always corrected with the word "cabinet" by the military themselves.

UNIONS, BUSINESS LEADERS ON CURRENCY DEVALUATION

WA190215 Rome IPS in English 19 Sep 84

[Text] Santiago, Sept 19 (IPS) -- Some Chilean business leaders said today that a 23.6 percent currency devaluation Sept 17 was a drastic but necessary measure while other business and trade union leaders protested over price rises expected from the move.

The military government also announced an 11 percent increase in import tariffs to 35 percent. By yesterday, prices of fuel, imported items, and air tickets had risen, and merchants said further increases will be announced. Treasury Minister Luis Escobar predicted prices will increase as much as 35 percent, because of the combined effect of the devaluation and tariff rise.

Humberto Soto, secretary general of United Workers' Front (FUT), termed the devaluation "tragic for wage earners."

Labor leader Hernol Flores, president of the State Employees Union, noted that the military government has said salaries will not be raised before January 1985 and said "the Treasury Ministry must understand the state workers cannot accept a continued salary freeze." He demanded a salary increase to meet the 100 percent rise in the consumer index since August 1981, because wages have not been increased since then.

A 35 percent increase in import tariffs will help exporters and may increase employment, labor leaders noted, but that will depend on policies set by private business. Chilean Chamber of Commerce President Dario Vial said merchants are concerned that "the population will pay for the export incentives with price increases."

Transport company spokespersons are complaining about the new economic measures, noting that their debts, which now total about $500 million, will increase, and spare parts will cost 11 percent more.

Military government officials, meanwhile, maintained that the devaluation and tariff increase were essential. The devaluation was necessary so that Chile does not have to suspend payments on the foreign debt, Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa argued. The currency devaluation will help finance a $1.5 billion budget deficit which, he said, resulted largely from falling prices in copper, Chile's main export and source of foreign currency, and increasing interest rates.

Ernesto Ayala, president of the Business Society for Factory Development (Sofofa) said the devaluation was needed to bring the Chilean peso in line with the U.S. dollar. But Ayala criticized the import tariff increase, noting that the industrial sector needs to import machinery to increase production and hire staff. The tariff on capital goods should not be raised, he said.

Manuel Feliu, president of the National Mining Society (Sonami) said the devaluation was the only way to improve export prospects.

CARABINEROS TO PROTECT OPPOSITION MEMBERS

PY202106 Santiago Radio Cooperative in Spanish 1715 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Former Christian Democratic Party Congressman Jose Monares has reported that Carabineros will adopt all necessary measures to prevent the repetition of the attacks staged against two opposition leaders last week. Monares met with Santiago Carabineros Commander General Oscar Torres this morning. Monares explained that he also voiced to Gen Torres his concern over the possibility that these attacks may turn into an escalation marked by direct aggression.

[Begin Monares recording] We must admit that Gen Torres treated us courteously and that we had a very frank exchange of ideas. He told us that the Carabineros will do everything in their power to prevent this type of aggression, and that opposition members, like everyone else, may rest assured that Carabineros will use all protective measures within their competency. [end recording]

TERRORIST ATTACKS REPORTED IN VARIOUS CITIES

PY202104 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Sep 8

[Text] A group of extremists detonated a bomb at the state bank in Concepcion. There is still no report on the damage caused by the explosion.

Other bomb explosions were also registered in Iquitos City.

In Santiago a group of vandals tried to attack a bus transporting personnel of the Chilean Air Force.

HOY LAMENTS GENERAL DESPAIR, LACK OF FREEDOM

PY201926 Santiago HOY in Spanish 10-16 Sep 84 p 5

[From the "Column of the Director": "The Country Still Expects a Great Gesture," by Emilio Filippi]

[Text] After 11 years of military government in Chile, the country is in distress. The prevailing atmosphere is one of a vacuum, of terrible despair, and of a lack of prospects, in addition to the negative results of the government's policies, which it would be useless to reiterate here.

The situation is becoming ever more one of conflict, not only because of the economic disaster, which affects all sectors, but because of the chain of hatred that is, not surprisingly, growing daily and that seems to have no end.

The action of 11 September, its authors have said, was taken to return the broken constitutionality to Chile; that is, to end the pointless struggles, to lead the country toward legality, and to restore the rights that have been violated. Some of these rights are the right to disagree and to fully exercise all our freedoms. It was said that the military coup was justified by the imminent installation of a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship.

The facts have demonstrated that the initial promises have not been kept, and that the main objective has not been reached: that we Chileans should act unitedly and work to achieve an efficient and stable democracy in Chile. Instead, the rights we had in 1973 have been restricted, and coercive actions against the citizens have become exacerbating.

One would have to be blind and deaf not to understand the great discontent in the country over the results of the current administration and the true situation. There is great dissatisfaction among immense national sectors. Many social groups feel left out from any kind of prosperity and from their legitimate right to a worthy income through gainful employment. The youths are restless, not because of demagogic preaching, as official spokesmen think, but because of the lack of a future and because they feel frustrated and misunderstood. In short, the people are generally discouraged, which is the main characteristic of a great moral crisis.

In the face of these facts, the government is remaining incredibly intransigent. It is continuing to disregard reality and to try to silence the fair complaints of the people by repressive measures or by gagging the media. Someone has convinced the authorities that without freedom of the press, radio, and television, the main problems will disappear. They firmly believe that by sweeping the dust under the carpet, everything will remain clean and healthy. Unfortunately, this is the wrong way, like so many others. Difficulties do not disappear just by being denied. The silencing and pursuit of those who point out the facts may perhaps temporarily calm things, but the pressure will continue growing inside. Great problems are not cured with salves and much less with imprisonments and deaths. Why can't this clear and obvious truth be understood?

We will not fall into the error of stating that the opposition, the dissidents, and the disappointed have contributed viable short-term solutions. We would frankly admit the possibility that the protests have become a useful pretext for the government's strategy and self-defeating for the objectives of the opposition. What is better than confusing the issues and creating violence rather than justice for the fair claims of the people? At the time of the political debate, someone spoke about diverting attitudes used to distract attention from the main problem to unimportant aspects. Time was gained by these methods, and also popularity, while the essential problem remained unsolved. However, it is inconceivable to play this kind of game on a sick country like ours.

In short, we must not admit that we are in a civil war, or that we confront each other as enemies. Although this may mean preaching in the desert, we must not forget that we are the children of this land, that we have a right to be considered equally, that hatred is a bad counselor, and that to transform the country into a field of great confusion will prevent us from understanding each other rationally and sensibly.

We are still waiting for the great gesture Archbishop Fresno spoke of in a request to Gen Pinochet. It should be the first step toward the reconciliation everyone is talking about, but which can still not be discerned.

BETANCUR SCORES SUPERPOWERS FOR AREA UNREST

PA201544 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0210 GMT 20 Sep 84

[By Jesus Fonseca Escartin]

[Excerpt] Bogota, 19 Sep (EFE) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur has charged the superpowers with "corroding the soul of Central America and the Caribbean by wanting to settle by force in this area a confrontation that does not concern these peoples."

Betancur made this remark at the reception held at Narino Palace attended by the participants of a meeting of the "Interaction Council" [Consejo de Interaccion]. The council, which met this week in Cartagena de Indias, is made up of former heads of government of 26 nations on 5 continents, and seeks to promote peace and international development.

"Central America and the Caribbean hope to achieve their own peace through dialogue and not through war, because they see peace as the necessary condition in order for their large needy populations to march along the path of development," Betancur added.

Those attending the meeting included Japan's former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda, Australia's former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, Romanian former Prime Minister Manea Manescu, former Nigerian head of government Olusegun Obasanjo, and former UN secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

Former Colombian President Misael Pastrana Borrero also attended the meeting as host and as a member of the council coordinating the Cartagena summit meeting, which ended today.

Betancur stressed that the Central American and Caribbean struggle is against underdevelopment and pro-peace, and that this is the Contadora Group's banner. The peace-seeking group was founded on 9 January 1983 by Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela.

BETANCUR, DUARTE MEET ON AREA SITUATION

Betancur Speech

PA202343 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] During the dinner held last night for Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte, Colombian President Belisario Betancur said: We have learned to look at and become acquainted with each other more rapidly and with a clearer awareness of history. We have learned to look at world events from our own viewpoint and have been able to be active rather than passive participants in world politics.

Continuing, Betancur said: We are at the threshold of a new pan-Americanism that is more mature, deeper, and more dynamic. We are now more aware that true interdependence can only be based on factors such as sovereignty and national identity. This pan-Americanism is realistic rather than rhetorical, and should always respect interdependence in order to rule out the possibility of unfair treatment.

The president declared: We live in a mentally new Latin America. [Words indistinct] as if history would have bypassed us at a distance. [Words indistinct] We did not even know ourselves.

Here are excerpts of last night's important speech by President Betancur:

[Begin Betancur recording] Once we have fulfilled this realistic and humanistic duty we can demand a permanent front row seat and be classified as a first-class country. We have not been able to achieve this so far. This will be possible by respecting man's metaphysical reality. This reality is to be Latin American men in these times and at all times, to be flesh and blood human beings. This was referred to by Miguel de Unamuno. This is the individual who sighed before the European culture and the Indo-American culture met each other [words indistinct]. He is the one who sighed during colonial times for the acknowledgment of his ancestral rights. He is the one who repeatedly longs to get out of his isolation, which has lasted for centuries. He longs to enjoy peace and tranquillity, while on the outside the powerful men on earth confront each other in tragic insanity.

Out of this, however, fundamental peace emerges as from a cocoon. This peace has been described by history's philosophers. This is the same peace that warriors longed for during the course of history.

Most excellent gentlemen, dear friends: Let's toast to our nations at peace and our world at peace. Let's toast to Latin America and in it Central America, the Caribbean, El Salvador, and Colombia. All of them at peace. Let's toast with these high glasses of hope. Let's raise them for El Salvador and Colombia. To you, most excellent ladies and gentlemen. Let's lift these glasses of hope. Thank you very much. [end recording]

Discuss Central America

PA210332 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in English 0000 GMT 21 Sep 84

[Report by Francisco Cristancio Reyes, from the presidential palace]

[Text] Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte [words indistinct]. The Colombian president and his Salvadoran counterpart discussed the Contadora Group's efforts and the two nations' positions regarding Latin America's enormous foreign debt.

President Betancur held a long conversation with President Duarte, after which the two signed the so-called Bogota Agreement, which is similar to the one signed with the Argentine president and is related to the critical foreign indebtedness situation that developing countries are experiencing.

In a spirit of harmony and friendship, Duarte and Betancur exchanged views today on the current international situation, particularly in Latin America and specifically Central America. In addition, they analyzed their bilateral relations and confirmed the high level of these relations which have preserved traditional brotherhood and rapprochement ties. They announced they will continue to enthusiastically cooperate in initiatives and actions for peace, development, and social justice.

During a press conference which they held, Duarte said that his country will continue to request U.S. military assistance, but that this does not mean that El Salvador will turn itself over to the United States to be manipulated at will.

Duarte also said that his country will struggle to achieve peace, not only in El Salvador but in all of Central America as well, and added that the Contadora Group is doing a great job to attain the peace for which the entire world longs.

Sign 'Bogota Declaration'

PA210351 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0126 GMT 21 Sep 84

[Text] Bogota, 20 Sep (EFE) -- Presidents Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador and Belisario Betancur of Colombia "trust that the document for peace and cooperation in Central America will be signed in the very near future."

Both chiefs of state agreed on this in a joint declaration signed today in this capital, on the second day of the Salvadoran president's official visit to Colombia.

The text of the "Bogota Declaration" states that "the peace process underway by the 'Contadora Group' has thus far had the power to prevent tensions from becoming worse in Central America."

The document also underlines the fact that Contadora has pointed out that the dialogue mechanism between the parties in conflict could become a decisive factor in reconciling positions and interests, and that it is the right forum to negotiate solutions that will permit the peaceful coexistence of the peoples of the isthmus."

Betancur and Duarte voiced their conviction that "today, more than ever, it is necessary for the international community to rightfully apply the purposes and principles of the UN Charter."

The two presidents indicated the need to cease the internal strife as a basic condition for achieving the development and welfare of the peoples, and to create the proper internal conditions to make the participation of all trends of opinion possible.

The "Bogota Declaration" also states that the "Latin American economic crisis has brought about the stagnation of the region's development and is a serious risk for political destabilization in the area."

The Salvadoran and Colombian chiefs of state reiterated the significance of the sub-regional integration processes, pointed to the need to promote cooperation between the Andean group and the Central American common market, and hoped for the recovery of the market.

President Betancur showed "special satisfaction over the evident progress in the democratization process observed in Salvadoran political developments."

The declaration also notes the common objective to bolster bilateral cooperation and the political commitment to strengthen the agreements.

OPPOSITION REACTS TO COLORADO MEMBER'S STATEMENT

PY201752 Paris AFP in Spanish 1457 GMT 19 Sep 84

[Text] Asuncion, 19 Sep (AFP) -- The Paraguayan political opposition today energetically reacted to the statement made by a member of the ruling party that Domingo Laino should be beheaded and his head thrown in the river so that it will float out to sea. Laino, who is living in exile, is the president of the Authentic Liberal Radical Party, which does not have a legal status.

The statement was made by Silvio Ramon Zelaya, president of the Colorado Party of Concepcion (250 km north of Asuncion) during the recent Colorado Party convention. Zelaya's statement was applauded by the conventioneers.

Percio Franco, president of the Radical Liberal Party (the main opposition party), described the statement as a threat of political assissination, and he said that this shows that some Colorado leaders are behaving like cavemen and turning their backs on civilization. He added that they are not even good politicians, because they are unable to compete with ideas and they threaten to use force and commit political assassinations in a vain attempt to intimidate opposition members and to get them to relinquish their legitimate convictions.

For his part, Liberal Party President Fulvio Hugo Celauro said that this shows that the Colorado members dread controversies, feel insecure, and lack confidence in their own party. However, Celauro said that his party sees Zelaya's view as a personal one and not as the view of the entire Colorado Party. Celauro concluded by saying that this happens because practicing democracy in Latin America has become very difficult.

LIBERAL RETURNS FROM EXILE TO UNITE PARTY

PY210205 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 16 Sep 84 p 19

[Excerpts] Jose Antonio Ayala, former president of the Liberal Party, is thinking of a new plan to reunite the various sectors and parties into which the Paraguayan Liberal Party has split. The mentioned politician has lived in exile in Argentina for the past 25 years and has returned to our country to unite the various liberal factions under one flag. To achieve his objective, Ayala plans to create the Superior Council for the Unification of Paraguayan Liberalism [Consejo Superior de Unificacion del Liberalismo Paraguayo, Consulip].

In a document referring to the creation of Consulip, Jose Antonio Ayala states: "We have successfully and happily fulfilled our objective of creating the Superior Council for the Unification of Paraguayan Liberalism. The organization will be formed by Carlos Pastore, Salvador Villagra Maffiodo, Pedro R. Espinola, Rogelio Pavon, and Guido Sisa. This council will start functioning once the various factions into which liberalism has split are notified about its creation and once they have voiced their support and desire to cooperate with it. The reticence of any of the liberal factions to participate in this council will not represent an obstacle for the fulfillment of its objectives."

The document points out that "the council may increase the number of its members and request any type of cooperation to fulfill its objectives. It will also have the important mission of redefining the liberal ideology and of reuniting our party at the national level."

It adds that "those who have accepted such an important patriotic task are true liberals who, upon undertaking such a high responsibility, were aware that they were doing so primarily to fulfill a historical need. They were following their untarnished patriotic spirit, since none of them has any personal ambitions to fulfill."

The document states that "nobody ignores the overall institutional crisis of the country that not only affects the government but also other institutions and secondary organizations. There is no hope of reestablishing a democratic order with anarchic political parties. To be able to establish a democratic order we need liberty, freedom of the press, freedom to air and confront ideas, so that the people may voice their opinion. If there is no freedom of opinion, the people go adrift and this inexorably leads to anarchy. The media is the only sector that cannot be missing in a democratic institutional order."

This ambitious initiative, with still unclear objectives, will necessarily have to be based on well-defined ideology to avoid, above all, sectarianism and subservience within the party. In an exclusive interview, the mentor of the idea to unite the Liberal Party explains the reasons that drove him to this idea that, firstly, may lead to a dialogue with the various factions and, later, to the unity of the Liberal Party. Following is the text of the interview with Jose Antonio Ayala:

[Question] Where did the idea come from?

[Answer] The initiative to unite the Liberal Party is exclusively mine since I started the mechanism to find a way to achieve that unity we need so badly. We cannot gather any strength or have any important role at the national level split up as we are now.

I think that the serious institutional crisis of the country is what drove me to undertake this task. We cannot aspire for national unity before seeking the cohesion of the parties that are the tools of democracy. Therefore, we must organize the political parties, unite them, because we are of no use to the country split up. In this regard, our effort has been successful. I think that we have summoned the most outstanding members of the party, the remaining true liberals, to achieve this unity. If they, with their tradition, moral values, and capability, cannot achieve this unity, then I don't think anyone can.

[Question] Have you already contacted every Liberal Party faction?

[Answer] Not yet, because the Consulip will start functioning after each of the factions within the party have voiced their support for it so that it may have the necessary framework, support, and cooperation from all these groups. I think we will find this. I think it is worth trying out this plan since there is no other plan. I have even appealed to the patriotism of the liberals of all factions to reach an understanding to reorganize the great party we inherited from our forefathers.

[Question] Have you thought what you are going to offer the various factions in order to avoid any discriminations or differences?

[Answer] We have still not outlined the plan we are going to carry out. The idea is to have the support of all the groups in order to achieve their unity through a great convention because there is no other path. The convention, in a sovereign way, will determine the party's real leadership. I think this is the only path to follow.

[Question] What are the basic necessary conditions?

[Answer] First of all, the government must grant great liberty. We must come before the Republic's altar with our flags. No political party should be proscribed. Freedom of action must be granted because only in this way, with freedom of action and freedom of election, will we be able to obtain a result that really reflects the will of the majority, of the members of the political parties. If not we will never have a coherent fatherland and will always continue as we are now.

[Question] Who are you planning to contact?

[Answer] The Superior Council will contact all the sectors that have strayed from the party.

[Question] All of them?

[Answer] Naturally, all of them. The representatives of each sector will opportunely be summoned by the council in order to hear their opinion and what they think is the best way to reach the unity of all the sectors in order to form a single party, that is, the Liberal Party, under one flag. Although we are worth nothing split up, united we can achieve the great objective pursued by our forefathers. This is what I think we, liberals, must do.

AEROPERU BOARD RESIGNS; WORKERS PROTEST ACCORD

PY201438 Lima Cadena America Television in Spanish 0330 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Transport and Communications Minister Carlos Pestana Zevallos today categorically denied that the executive board of the Peruvian State Airlines [Aeroperu] resigned over disagreements with the government in relation to the negotiations with the U.S. Government on a new commercial air agreement. He also indicated that there was no pressure of any kind for the board to resign. Pestana said:

[Begin recording] Aeroperu is an independent company. It does not fall under the jurisdiction of Transport Ministry as other state transportation companies do. In this regard, the executive board of Aeroperu is completely independent, and its members were free to do what they did.

[Reporter] Was there any pressure from the government on the Aeroperu executive board to resign?

[Pestana] Absolutely not.

[Question indistinct]

[Pestana] [Words indistinct] for publishing their reasons in the newspapers, but the Transport Ministry does not have a director in Aeroperu, not a single one.

[Reporter] What does the U.S. Government want in our country?

[Pestana] They have always wanted the fifth freedom [right to pick up passengers] and on studying this possibility Peru has also asked for the fifth freedom.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] our air commercial rights?

[Pestana] Reciprocity is when one gives in exchange for something else [words indistinct]. [end recording]

In the meantime, workers of Aeroperu today carried out a stoppage to protest the imminent signing of the new commercial air agreement. The workers said that the agreement is detrimental to the country. (Sara Hurtado), the workers' delegate to the Aeroperu executive board, and (Cesar Atala), president of the Pilots Association, have said that the agreement favors the U.S. airlines in detriment to our country. They also indicated that they will take radical measures if the agreement is signed.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES STAGE MARCH IN LIMA

PY201449 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0330 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Excerpts] The government employees, who today held a 24-hour stoppage, stated a march from 2 May Park to the Plaza de Armas, demanding a direct dialogue with the government and the fulfillment of their salary demands. Police intervention during the marsh was minimal. The interior minister called on the workers to make their claims without violence, adding that commonsense and serenity should prevail.

NEW GUERRILLA GROUP 'TUPACAMARUS' EMERGES

PY202347 Paris AFP in Spanish 1134 GMT 20 Sep 84

[By Daniel Sire]

[Text] Lima, 20 Sep (AFP) -- A new guerrilla group, the Tupacamarus, has recently appeared in the Peruvian terrorist movement that has already left in its wake 5,000 persons killed at the hands of the Maoist commandos of Shining Path.

In contrast with the Shining Path organization whose members are called soldiers of the shadow or phantoms of Ayacucho because of the furtive manner in which they operate, the Tupacamarus went into action with great publicity, claiming responsibility for a dozen attacks in Lima and its outlying neighborhoods.

This week AFP and Lima newspapers received the first pamphlets of the MRTA (Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement) in which the V of victory appears printed inside a circle with an inscription reading "For the cause of the poor, with the masses and arms in hand."

A drawing of the face of Inca hero Tupac Amaru, whom the Spaniards killed by drawing and quartering him because of his rebellion against the crown in 1780, is printed on the white middle stripe of the Peruvian flag (red-white-red). The drawing does not have the broad-brimmed hat Tapac Amaru used to wear, perhaps because a hat is considered bourgeois attire.

In the 1960's, the Uruguayan guerrillas, who were the pioneers for the urban guerrillas in Latin America following the defeat of the rural guerrillas inspired by Che Guevara, adopted the name of Tupamaros in memory of the legendary Indian chief.

In their initial publications, the Tapacamarus claimed responsibility for attacks against police precincts in the Lima popular neighborhoods of Villa el Salvador and Villa Maria del Triunfo and against the residence of former Economy Minister Carlos Rodriguez Pastor. These attacks caused very little damage.

Tupacamarus, not Shining Path guerrillas, might have been responsible for placing dynamite sticks that did not go off on the door of the U.S. Embassy and for raising on several buildings in the city red banners with the hammer and the sickle.

Interior Minister Luis Percovich is convinced that the new terrorist organization does not exist, and that this is just a diversionary maneuver designed by Shining Path to mislead the intelligence services.

The Lima weekly OIGA said this week that the Tupacamarus are the same people who organized the MIR-Venceremos in the 1960's during President Belaude's first administration, and that this is indeed a new guerrilla organization that the government must fight. Because of their participation in extreme left organizations and in several semi-clandestine meetings, particularly in the universities in Lima, the MRTA leaders seem to be known by the police and other observers.

Comrade Turk, Marco Antonio Turkaowsky who is ideologically close to Fidel Castro, is said to be the head of the political bureau, and Ernesto Montes Aliaga the general coordinator, who receives funds from abroad.

The Tupacamarus may have taken money through the blackmailing of tax-evading merchants and from drug traffickers, just like Shining Path.

The actions in Lima seem to have been carried out for publicity purposes only; the MRTA is preparing its main operations in Cajamarca and Lambayeque Provinces, the old operating ground of the MIR-Venceremos in the north of the country, near the Ecuadoran border, between the Pacific coast and the Amazon region.

The MRTA may have been preparing for the last 3 years to launch operations, distributing its men on the local level in rural areas and at the regional level and undergoing prior military training in camps like the one the Peruvian Investigative Police discovered in Jaen Province 2 years ago. During that operation, the police may have seized ammunition, dynamite sticks, nitroglycerine explosives, ammonium nitrate, elements to manufacture Molotov cocktails, sulphur, phosphorus, fuses, and so on.

Meanwhile, in the Ayacucho Sierra, southeast of Lima, the number of dead is growing at an accelerated pace. The civilians and the sierra peasants are paying a heavy toll for the guerrilla activities, and the outcome of this guerrilla war depends on whether these people turn in favor or against Shining Path, according to observers.

POLICE ARREST 14 FOR TERRORIST ATTACKS

PA150325 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Sep 84

[Text] In Lima, the Peruvian Investigative Police and the antiterrorism directorate arrested 14 alleged members of the armed group that attacked a police station and the naval hospital. Other reports indicate that an unidentified group last night attacked the patrol car installations of the Civil Guard, while another group tried to blow up a high tension line in Lima. The two attacks were repelled.

It was also reported that the Civil Guard chased four armed individuals who were prowling around near the home of Alan Garcia, American Revolutionary Popular Assiance [APRA] presidential candidate, in Miraflores district.

Some 200 paramilitary men of the so-called peasant patrols have begun an operation in Ayacucho Department in search of members of the Shining Path organization who attacked a community in the region and killed 20 people, EL DIARIO MARKA reported. The paramilitary men form part of a Peruvian Navy column that is based in Huanta Province.

SHINING PATH ATTACKS SETTLEMENT, FRONTON PRISON

PY132230 Paris AFP in Spanish 1817 GMT 13 Sep 84

[Excepte] Lima, 13 Sep (AFP) -- Travelers who last night arrived in Ayacucho, 575 km southeast of Lima, have reported that 17 peasants, including children, women, and old men, were last Tuesday night murdered in cold blood by a Shining Path group in Pampana settlement, in Acosvinchos District of Ayacucho Department.

Observers have indicated that this newest massacre in the recent series of attacks carried out with cruelty and impunity against innocent peasants, who have become the targets in a crossfire, is apparently a new Shining Path strategy to destroy, instead of using persuasion, any community that is not contributing to the armed struggle.

In the attack on Pampana, 55 km northeast of Ayacucho, the subversives, in addition to indiscriminately killing children, women, and old men, looted and set fire to houses as they have been doing lately in settlements and communities that are not contributing to their struggle or are joining the paramilitary peasant organizations. In addition, 15 subversives in a high-speed boat last night attacked the San Lorenzo Naval Base across from Callao Port. The Fronton Prison, where 300 Shining Path members are being held, is located in this area. There were no reports of casualties in this attack. Reliable sources have reported that the boat suddenly appeared in front of the base under the protection of dense fog at 1920 firing their submachineguns at the guards, who after recovering from the surprise repelled the attackers. After a short shoot-out, the boat escaped out to the sea chased by Navy boats. This is the first subversive attack on a naval base, an attack that created commotion at Fronton Prison. In view of this attack, the Republican Guard detachment in charge of protecting the prison was forced to ask for reinforcements in case the prison is attacked again.

In another event in the Amazon area of Balsa Probana, San Martin, northeast of Lima, a Civil Guard corporal, William Pinedo Flores, was shot to death by drug traffickers-terrorists (alliance or mutual support between drug traffickers and terrorists). In the Lima district of La Victoria, a policeman was wounded and a subversive was killed during a shoot-out.

PEASANTS GO TO CITIES TO FLEE TERRORISTS

PY200049 Paris AFP in Spanish 1750 GMT 19 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Lima, 17 Sep [as received] (AFP) -- Hundreds of families of the areas affected by terrorist actions, especially in Huanta Province in Ayacucho Department, are emigrating to the cities seeking to save their lives, thus abandoning all their belongings, their land and farm animals to which they have always been very attached. Today it was confirmed that more than 300 peasant families are staying at a shanty town on the outskirts of Lima, where they arrived on 16 September with the support of the shanty town mayor, who, as many other inhabitants of Lima, comes from Ayacucho. These families have been located on nine hectares of land that will probably be increased because there are hundreds more Ayacucho inhabitants, who having abandoned their houses, land, and animals, are in Ayacucho city where the church and Armed Forces are taking care of them.

ALLEGED SHINING PATH GUERRILLA LEADER ACQUITTED

PY192058 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0345 GMT 19 Sep 84

[Text] Lima, 19 Sep (EFE) -- A Lima court has acquitted alleged guerrilla Laura Zambrano, alias "Comrade Meche," because it could find no evidence incriminating her. Police detained Laura Zambrano a few months ago on charges of being the top leader of the Shining Path, a Maoist movement, in Lima.

Judge Manuel Matos, of the 10th court, found Zambrano innocent. She had been reported by another alleged guerrillas, detained in January 1983, who charged that Zambrano gave him pamphlets on the armed struggle. Nevertheless, "Comrade Meche" remains imprisoned because she is standing trial at the seventh court on charges of murder, of blowing up high tension towers, and of having taken part in the action during which the Lima Bayer plant was set on fire in May 1983 and in other attacks against public and private property. Concerning the acquittal of Zambrano, Peruvian Justice Minister Max Arias Schreiber said that if the courts so decided "it is because they found neither guilt nor responsibility."

GOVERNMENT TO EXPEDITE PRISONERS' RELEASE

PY201512 Paris AFP in Spanish 0207 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 19 Sep (AFP) -- The military regime tonight announced that before the legislative chambers that are elected in the November elections are installed, there will be two other revisions [dos nuevas visitas de causa] of the list of political prisoners to expedite their release.

The Armed Forces commanders in chief made this announcement to politicians during a 2-and-1/2-hour meeting held today at the Joint Chiefs of Staff (Esmaco) Headquarters. During the meeting, the delegates of the Colorado Party, the Brand Front, and the Civic Union expressed their concern to the commanders in chief over the time the government is taking to release the prisoners being held at the Punta de Rieles and Liberatad prisons.

At the end of the meeting, Colorado Party leader Enrique Tarigo quoted the commanders in chief as stating that they would not pardon the prisoners who are seriously ill, as has been requested by political groups.

Tarigo said that the commanders in chief noted the slowness of the prisoners' lawyers to answer the petitions made by the military judges, citing the case of 15 communist students detained last year who are still waiting for their lawyers to submit the requested documents to be released.

THAILAND'S FOREIGN MINISTER PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT

BK200413 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 18 Sep 84

[Text] Thai Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila paid an official visit to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay from 13 to 17 September. The minister was welcomed upon his arrival at the Montevideo airport by Uruguayan Acting Foreign Minister [name indistinct] and other high-ranking officials. The Uruguayan foreign minister was on an official visit to foreign countries.

ON 14 September the Thai foreign minister met with several high-ranking Uruguayan officials, including the secretary general of the Latin American Integration Association [ALADI] which has 11 Latin American countries as members. The Thai foreign minister and and ALADI secretary general exchanged views on the possibility of promoting ASEAN-ALADI cooperation as a means to strengthen relations among developing countries. The two officials agreed that contacts between the associations can begin at the official level of the secretariats.

Later the same day, the Thai foreign minister called on the Uruguayan acting foreign minister. They discussed regional issues and bilateral relations between the two countries. The Uruguayan acting foreign minister gave his views on the situation in Latin America and assured Sitthi of his country's support for Thailand's stand on the Kampuchean issue at the United Nations. On bilateral relations, the two ministries agreed that there are possibilities to expand cooperation, especially under the bilateral trade agreement signed on 14 September. They also want an expansion of contacts between the private sectors of the two countries.

The Thai foreign minister paid a courtesy call on Uruguayan President Lieutenant General Gregorio Alvarez and presented to him the Thai prime minister's greetings message stressing Thailand's wish to maintain good relations with Uruguay. The foreign minister also laid a wreath at the monument of General Artigas, the national hero of Uruguay. On the evening of 16 September, the Uruguayan foreign minister hosted a banquet in honor of the Thai foreign minister.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT SHOT DEAD DURING RIOTS

PA201914 Paris AFP in Spanish 1855 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Caracas, 20 Sep -- A student was shot to death during riots near the campus of the Central University of Venezuela today. The youth was wounded when he participated in demonstrations protesting the National Guard's machine-gunning of dozens of university students yesterday on the outskirts of Caracas. He died shortly upon his arrival at the hospital. So far authorities have not identified the body.

TERRORIST GROUP BOMBS MEDIA INSTALLATIONS

PA201900 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 16 Sep 84 p 32

[Text] Maracay, 15 Sep -- The Venezuelan Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services [DISIP] has started investigating two bombings.

The self-styled Red Flag Regional People's Committee [Comite Popular Regional de Bandera Roja] claimed responsibility for the actions against Radio Apolo, in Turmero, and the Caracas office of the newspaper EL ARAGUENO.

The DISIP has called on workers of the two media firms to testify in the investigation to establish responsibility for the bombings, in which there were no victims or property damage.

LEONARDO FERRER TO VISIT CUBA IN OCTOBER

PA201959 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 15 Sep 84 p D-2

[From the "Conversations" column by Alfredo Pena]

[Text] Leonardo Ferrer, president of the Chamber of Deputies, will go to Cuba in the second half of October, in response to an invitation by the National Assembly of the People's Government. Ferrer discussed the invitation with President Jaime Lusinchi and Rafael Caldera [Social Christian Party leader] and the two leaders gave their approval.

Ferrer will travel with a group of parliamentary members, representing all the political forces in Congress. It is quite probable that the delegation will visit El Salvador first and then travel to Havana. The president of the Venezuelan Chamber of Deputies will deliver a speech at the Cuban assembly and meet with Fidel Castro.

Judging from this, relations between Caracas and Havana are advancing toward full normalization.

AID TO CONTRAS DENIED; RELATIONS WITH CUBA

PA202234 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 15 Sep 84 p D-20

[Imperio Rodriguez report]

[Excerpt] Both Carlos Canache Mata, of the Democratic Action Party, AD, and Abdon Vivas Teran, of the Social Christian Party, COPEI, said yesterday that they are sure that neither the parties they represent nor the Venezuelan Government are financing the activities of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary group as reported by THE NEW YORK TIMES.

According to the U.S. daily, several countries have helped the counterrevolutionary groups collect $10 million during the first 6 months of this year. Venezuela and the United States are mentioned among the countries collaborating with the "contras."

Regarding this topic, Carlos Canache Mata, leader of the AD parliamentary faction, said that evidently the Nicaraguan Sandinist government is being besieged and harassed, but that he is sure that neither the AD nor the government have given any reason to even suspect that they are linked to activities of this nature. The only role we have played in the area has been through the Contadora Group in an effort to find a peaceful solution to the current Central American crisis, he stressed.

Asked if the financial aid mentioned by the U.S. daily could have come from private organizations in the country, he replied that he could not speak for others and that he did not know if these reports had any basis.

Eduardo Fuentes, who is negotiating with Cuba, was present when we interviewed Canache Mata so we asked the latter about the process of the thawing of bilateral Cuban-Venezuelan relations. He replied: I think that the normalization of these relations would be positive in the best interests of Venezuela and Latin America. He added that Cuba is a political reality in Latin America, and that independently of the opinion that exists on the internal situation in each country, "it is advisable to maintain cordial relations between peoples and their respective governments."

We then asked him: When will the process to normalize relations, which has lasted more than 3 years, crystallize, in view of the fact that there is national and Latin American interest?

Canache Mata replied: I am not the best qualified person to answer this question because I am unaware of what is being done in this respect at an official level. I do not know what steps the government might have taken in this direction, but I do think that the normalization of relations with Cuba are in the best interest of Venezuela and Latin America.

PDVSA INCREASES OIL BY-PRODUCT PRICES

PA201637 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 15 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] An authorized spokesman for the Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc [PDVSA] has announced that, based on market trends, the company decided yesterday to increase the price of four oil by-products sold on the international market.

The brief report said that, based on a close watch of international oil market trends and after analyzing the situation of the supply and demand as of 14 September 1984, PDVSA decided to increase the price of gasoline, naphthas, and residual fuel, as follows:

Product	Increase
Unleaded gasoline	2 cents per gallon
Leaded gasoline	1 cent per gallon
Naphthas	.5 cent per gallon
Residual 0.3, 2, and 2.2 percent fuel	25 cents per barrel
Residual 1.0 percent fuel	85 cents per barrel

These increases equal 84 cents per barrel of unleaded gasoline; 42 cents per barrel of leaded gasoline; and 21 cents per barrel of naphtha exported. The increase was effective yesterday.

CPSU'S KAPITONOV DENIES SOVIET ARMS IN NICARAGUA

FL200056 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2335 GMT 19 Sep 84

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- Ivan Vasilyevich Kapitonov, member of the Secretariat of the CPSU Central Committee, categorically denied here today that there are Soviet-made weapons in Nicaragua, because his country does not sell arms to the Sandinist government.

Before returning to Moscow after an official 4-day visit to Mexico, Kapitonov said that each nation had a right to arm itself against another nation's aggression, as in the case of Nicaragua. That is why, he said, his government is against the aggression policies some powers use in Central America and the aggressions which are carried out to resolve the internal problems of other nations.

Questioned about the meeting between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko, Kapitonov said that in the talks his country would reiterate its position on the fight for world peace and disarmament.

Kapitonov also referred to the conversations he held with President Miguel de la Madrid and other high-ranking Mexican officials, and said the talks made apparent the necessity for understanding and cooperation between the two countries in order to fight against the tension created in the world by the arms race and the nuclear threat.

VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR ON POSSIBLE U.S. INVASION

FL172324 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1755 GMT 17 Sep 84

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- If the United States invades Nicaragua, Central America will become a new Vietnam, and, as what happened in Vietnam, constitute a political and military failure for the United States. Vietnam's Ambassador to Mexico Nguyen Minh Phoung said the above, and added that a U.S. intervention would bring about a bloody war which would involve all the countries in the region.

After stating that an invasion would also represent a danger to Mexican territory, the ambassador stressed that the fight would be hard but that the solidarity of the region's countries would be there, and imperialism would have to face yet another defeat. He said an intervention would also mean the rising up of not only one people but of all Central American peoples, and warned that Washington should think hard about such an act because the government in Managua could count on both domestic and international solidarity.

On the Contadora Group's activities, the ambassador said that Vietnam supports these efforts, and emphasized the work Mexico performs in this organization. He said that Mexico had always fought in favor of peace.

Nevertheless, Nguyen Minh Phoung believed that the Managua-Washington talks in Manzanillo, Mexico were a farce staged by the United States to distract international public opinion. He compared these talks with the 1968 Paris talks between U.S. envoys and representatives of North Vietnam's revolutionary government, when he explained that at that time Washington was using delaying tactics while continuing to fight.

On this theme, Nguyen Minh Phoung said the United States was fortifying the Honduran and Salvadoran Armies and mobilizing its naval flotillas off Nicaragua's coasts, which he described as attempts at creating the proper conditions for a direct invasion.

JAPAN'S ABE SENDS MESSAGE TO MEXICAN PEOPLE

FL201648 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0110 GMT 19 Sep 84

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- On the occasion of his coming visit to Mexico, Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Shintaro Abe has sent a message to the Mexican people expressing his pleasant surprise at the economic, political, and diplomatic successes achieved by Mexico since December 1982. He said: I am pleasantly surprised by the successes achieved in the political, diplomatic, economic, and social fields, which doubtless are the result of the efforts made by the Mexican people to overcome the crisis since December 1982, under the excellent leadership of President Miguel de la Madrid.

Abe, who will arrive in this capital on Thursday for a 3-day visit, stressed in his message that Japan wants Mexico to be one of Japan's most important partners. The staunch friendship between the two nations, Abe said, is reflected in the presence of about 3,000 Japanese who live in Mexico and are employed in business, technical cooperation, cultural activities, and research, among others. The foreign minister said his visit to Mexico responds to his country's desire to strengthen even more the commercial and financial relationship that has been built up in the past few years.

The Japanese minister, who is 60 years old, has been elected nine times to hold the highest seat in the Japanese House of Representatives. In 1981 he was minister of international trade and industry.

NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL201818 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2150 GMT 19 Sep 84

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek has said the European Economic Community is studying mechanisms to provide economic assistance to Central America and thus support the Contadora Group's peace measures. On his arrival in the capital for a 4-day working visit, the Netherlands foreign minister said the Contadora Group represents the only viable solution to Central America's problem because it contributes solutions from within and not from outside the region.

He indicated that his government as well as the nine other EC countries respect the peace process formulated by the foreign ministers of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama to achieve economic, political, and social stability in the region and also to encourage the democratic process among these peoples.

He stressed the relevant part Mexico has played to achieve peace not only in Central America, but also in other international forums by favoring disarmament, arms control, and the establishment of fair relations between the North and the South.

BRITISH TRADE MINISTER SUPPORTS ANTIPROTECTIONISM

FL201350 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0325 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- British Minister of Trade Paul Shannon has said that at the next meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Great Britain will come out against the protective tariffs that some industrialized nations place on Third World products.

Upon his arrival in this capital on a 6-day working visit, the British official said that his government's antiprotectionist position aims at encouraging freer trade that will favor all nations. He explained that his country supports free trade because the excessive protectionism of the industrialized nations impedes the development of the peoples. He said that in the case of Great Britain, 80 percent of all imported products are free of taxes and tariffs.

Paul Shannon referred to Mexico's current difficult economic situation, pointing out that despite the financial adversities they are facing, the Mexican people support the federal government in its attempts to overcome present conditions. The British minister said the recovery program implemented by the administration of President Miguel de la Madrid has prompted such great interest in Europe that some nations want to invest in different areas of Mexican industry. He said this is the case of Great Britain, which at the present time is studying the possibility of investing in such fields as fishing and telecommunications. The possibility will be studied during his visit to this capital.

PRIVATE FOREIGN DEBT DECREASES BY $3 BILLION

PA202317 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 17 Sep 84 p 10

[Excerpt] In the past 2 years private foreign debt has experienced a real decrease totaling a little more than $3 billion, which is equivalent to 16.6 percent of the total debt in 1982. In fact, only the private sector's foreign debt decreased in real volume, because this sector made unprecedented and proportionately larger payments than those of the public sector.

According to data provided by the Bank of Mexico, in the first quarter of the year the private sector paid $690.8 million on the initial loan; that is, $85 million more than that paid off by the public sector. This is significant because the public sector's total debt is four times greater than that of the private sector.

The larger payments on foreign credits and the restrictions on international financing in the country's private sector in the past 2 years are the main factors that have caused a decrease in real volume of the private sector's foreign debt, which is currently equal to that of the foreign debt of the entire banking system. In reports from the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit, it was confirmed that the private debt is approximately $15 billion, $3 billion less than that registered in 1982. The documents also state that private and public credit obligations have substantially changed the structure in terms of deadlines. Ninety-four percent of the long-term foreign debt contracts are larger than the short-term contracts.

The proportion between the payment of public debt services and exports also changed radically: In 1983 the total paid for foreign credit obligations was 40.8 percent of the total exports, while in the first quarter of 1984 the total payment for deb services was 29.7 percent of the foreign sales. The relation between debt services and exports is currently at the levels attained in 1976, which means that it is at a level that had not been reach : for the past 9 years.

BRIEFS

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ANTIGUA — The Governments of Mexico and Antigua and Barbuda have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the level of nonresident ambassadors effective 14 September. [Summary] [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 15 Sep 84 p 3 PA]

COSTA RICA

GOVERNMENT IMPROVES VIGILANCE IN BORDER REGIONS

PA201406 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 17 Sep 84 p 3

[Text] Although according to official reports the situation in the border regions is absolutely calm, the government has initiated a broad plan aimed at improving vigilance in these areas. For the moment, the Rural and Civil Guards will work in close coordination, according to Deputy Government Minister Rene Castro. Castro visited the northern border and gave details of what he described as a model plan to be extended to other regions in the country.

Castro said that in order to make optimum use of resources it was decided that the Civil and Rural Guards will work together. The officials of these two corps will be in the same building, and their functions will be closely interrelated, at least in the border areas. Castro said that this coordination is part of a series of actions aimed at improving controls, which will require a radical change in the traditional system that have been used in patrolling.

Some of the changes include more use of horses in suitable areas. In addition, bicycles and motorcycles will be used more frequently in control and security activities. According to Castro, the police corps are currently experiencing serious transportation problems. Transportation means includes 50 automobiles, 45 horses, 10 bicycles, and 60 motorcycles.

Castro said that an additional allotment of 10 million colones has been requested to purchase more equipment. He added that there are plans to purchase 500 bicycles, and 100 horses will be donated. As part of the changes, he also announced that air and ground communications systems will be improved. To this end, the airports at Llano Grande and Los Chiles have been completely repaired. In addition, the airports at Palmar and Laurel on the southern border will be used. Castro also noted that a helicopter for use in patrolling activities is expected to arrive soon.

AUSTRALIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER ON REFUGEES, TRADE

PA201619 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] One of Costa Rica's major concerns in connection with Australian Foreign Minister William Hayden's visit to our country was obtaining information on his government's position on the refugee issue. This was announced by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Dr Carlos Jose Gutierrez after meeting yesterday for over an hour with the Australian official. In recent months, the Central American situation has resulted in the grave problem of refugees fleeing from the violence in their respective countries. As a result of the constant flow of refugees from Nicaragua, Costa Rica, a small country with few economic resources, and currently experiencing an acute fiscal crisis, has not escaped from this problem.

According to Foreign Ministry sources, it is important to learn the Australian position on admitting refugees as Australia is a country of vast territory. A Central America-Australia bridge might be established to send refugees, and if such a bridge were established with Costa Rica's mediation, thus permitting refugees to be sent to that continent, this serious problem would to a large extent be resolved. Yesterday's was a preliminary meeting, a mere exchange of views, which might still turn into the beginning of an entire refugee-reception program. On another subject, the Australian minister said that his country endorses the Contadora Group's effort, which it views as a respectable option for achieving peace in Central America.

Further Report

PA210208 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Visiting Australian Foreign Affairs Minister William Hayden said that a military solution would not work in Central America and blamed the region's conflicts on its economic problems. Hayden, who leaves for Honduras tomorrow, met with President Monge Alvarez and Foreign Affairs Minister Gutierrez to gather information on the area's situation.

Meanwhile, it was reported that the two countries maintain trade relations totaling $292,000 per annum. President Monge told the visitor: We want to express our hope that despite the geographical distance separating our countries we will be able to strengthen and broaden trade and cultural exchanges between our countries.

STRIKING BANANA WORKERS GIVEN ULTIMATUM

PA201311 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Sep 84

[Excerpts] The Costa Rican Banana Company has given workers until tomorrow to return to work, or be dismissed without any benefits. The 200 workers who are still on strike must return to work at 1600 tomorrow, Thursday, or they will be fired. Labor Minister Jose Calvo asked the workers yesterday afternoon to return to their jobs or face dismissal, which would result in a higher unemployment rate.

Strike Concludes

PA210222 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] After a 72-day banana workers strike in the south, peace and calm has returned to the country today because banana and African palm workers resumed work this morning. A total of 200 workers, out of the 3,000 working at the Costa Rican Banana Company, resumed work at 0500 today following meetings yesterday in which they decided to end the strike.

Thus, the longest strike in Costa Rica's history has ended leaving behind negative results not only for the business sector and the government, but also for the banana workers. The company announced that in the next few days it will dismiss a large number of employees because losses resulting from the strike necessitates a cut in the labor force. In addition, the state was also adversely affected because it did not collect more than 120 million [currency not specified] in taxes.

ANTI-SANDINIST CHARGED WITH DRUG TRAFFICKING

PA201638 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] A Nicaraguan man named Gonzalez, who is said to be the leader of an anti-Sandinist organization that recently split from the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE] has been accused by the Judicial Investigation Agency [OIJ] of large-scale cocaine trafficking. An arrest warrant has been issued by the Second Arraignment Court in San Jose, for Gonzalez, who is charged with illicit association and kidnapping for extortion purposes. Gonzalez went to Liberia where he sought to expand his drug trafficking business. The OIJ agents have learned that Gonzalez contacted another Nicaraguan named Hidalgo, in whose house he left two plastic bags containing 10 grams of cocaine worth about 5 million colones.

Hidalgo, who has been detained by the OIJ, and who is being investigated in connection with the shooting of a thoroughbred horse, claims that his friend left the bags in his house but did not know what they contained. For his part, Gonzalez, who as reported earlier has already had serious problems with Costa Rican justice, has managed to evade the OIJ and at present his whereabouts is unknown.

In OIJ circles suspicion and concern are reportedly growing over the possibility that certain anti-Sandinist groups might be financing their activities through their drug-trafficking activities in our country. This would be very serious for us, an OIJ agent said finally.

EL SALVADOR

RUBEN ZAMORA ON 'NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SOLUTION'

PM201507 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 14 Sep 84 p 9

[Ruben Zamora, Democratic Revolutionary Front leader interview with Marco Cantarelli in Managua; date not given]

[Text] Managua -- "In El Salvador a negotiated political solution is a matter of realism: There must be neither winners nor losers." This was stated by Ruben Zamora, a representative of the Christian democratic left, whose brother was a minister and was killed by the death squads. Zamora is one of the most prominent members of the Democratic Revolutionary Front-Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FDR-FMLN] political-diplomatic commission, El Salvador's progressive and combative "shadow cabinet." In this capacity a few months ago he was one of the protagonists of the cautious initiation of contacts with U.S. Ambassador Stone and with the Duarte government's peace commission -- contacts which later ended "basically," he said, "because the latter were unwilling to initiate a political solution process. In the face of international pressure they had to accept the method, though without specifically supporting the dialogue."

(Cantarelli) So let us look at the real substance of this realism. What are you proposing?

(Zamora) Our proposal is to initiate a negotiated political solution that will produce a provisional government, which will hold elections relatively quickly. Realism means seeking an alternative that does not consist of a military victory on our part or on the Army's part. Because it is now obvious that the Army cannot defeat the FDR-FMLN forces. A victory on our part, on the other hand, would entail U.S. intervention, which we do not want. It would mean war throughout Central America and the destruction of our country. The roots of the conflict are social injustice and the absence of democracy. It is therefore necessary to initiate a process of democratization of the country, which means holding elections. You cannot expect unlimited legitimacy from a temporary agreement. Elections are in fact the method for confirming this legitimacy in the country's political life.

Then it will be necessary to try to reach agreement on a blueprint for socioeconomic transformations and on foreign policy, which must rule out the present U.S. interference. We are in favor of a policy of nonalignment.

(Cantarelli) During the election campaign Napoleon Duarte said he was willing to open a dialogue. Is that prospect drawing nearer or receding?

(Zamora) Duarte knows that the majority of Salvadorans want a negotiated solution. Therefore, his promise to the voters was designed to secure the maximum number of votes. Immediately after, however, he began to backtrack. He said he was willing to conduct a dialogue as long as the FDR-FMLN laid down its arms.

That is absurd. Then, 3 months later, Duarte still says he is in favor of a dialogue, but says he needs time. In fact he has put everything off indefinitely. Why? On the one hand he cannot hold a dialogue, and on the other the U.S. Embassy, the oligarchy, and sectors of the Armed Forces prevent him from doing so. His argument about the parallel between the counterrevolutionary war in Nicaragua and the Salvadoran people's struggle is nothing new. For a long time the United States argued that the aid to the "contras" in Honduras was designed to prevent the alleged arms trafficking from Nicaragua to El Salvador. In fact, proceeding from the false premise that the Salvadoran guerrillas depend on Nicaragua, Duarte is granting Reagan a further excuse for exerting pressure on the Sandinists not to resolve the Salvadoran conflict. Not even the previous Managua government went as far as to link El Salvador's internal conflict so openly with Nicaragua.

(Cantarelli) The intention behind the proposal of a broad-based government seems to be to reproduce the situation created by the 15 October 1979 coup that brought the social democrats, the communists, and the democratic military into the government. That experiment failed. How would it differ today?

(Zamora) In October 1979 we had progressive ideas of reform and democratization, but there were insufficient social forces behind that blueprint. Now we want all the people's forces to participate.

(Cantarelli) Archbishop Rivera y Damas of San Salvador is one of the most resolute supporters of dialogue. What role do you attribute to the Catholic Church in this phase?

(Zamora) The church is the only moral institution that can have a mediating role among the conflicting sides. Officially, the Episcopal conference has already agreed to perform this role, which we believe consists not in participating directly in a political agreement, becoming attached to or confused with the state, but rather in facilitating a political solution.

(Cantarelli) In other words a channel of communications?

(Zamora) Yes. We have already had recourse to it on several occasions to convey our proposed solutions.

(Cantarelli) One of the most serious obstacles on the road to dialogue is the extreme right. What do you propose in this regard?

(Zamora) One of the provisional government's fundamental tasks would be precisely to eradicate the death squads from our country's history.

(Cantarelli) Using what forces?

(Zamora) With the army that will result from the accords.

(Cantarelli) Do you mean an integrated structure with the FMLN?

(Zamora) That is our proposal. A possibility. We are not strictly bound to it. However, we are steadfast in our desire for a government capable of guaranteeing the country's democratic life. Elections with death squads would be an absurdity.

(Cantarelli) If the internal forces were to prove unable to guarantee this, would the hypothesis then arise of a foreign military presence?

(Zamora) A kind of peace-keeping force? No, we do not agree to that. For two reasons. It is unnecessary: The Salvadorans have the ability to put an end to the death squads. Furthermore, in the history of Latin America the presence of foreign forces has turned into occupation.

(Cantarelli) What will happen if Reagan is reelected?

(Zamora) The possibilities of a direct U.S. intervention will increase. Reelection would be interpreted as a mandate to continue the same policy in Central America. The defeated Democratic opposition would take some time to reorganize its forces. After the election where would be the usual honeymoon between the executive branch and the legislature. The temptation of an adventure in El Salvador would increase. One of Duarte's errors is precisely this: If he wants a dialogue, he has time to start one before November. Reagan cannot remove him before then. Either out of political miscalculation or out of bad faith, the Christian Democrats talk about dialogue but are wasting the opportunities for initiating a negotiation process.

FMLN ATTACKS CROPS, CROP DUSTER IN USULUTAN

PA210210 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 Sep 84 p 43

[Excerpts] Usulutan Department officials have reported that 150 heavily armed subversives used machetes to destroy the cotton crops on 150 manzanas belonging to the Neto Company, which is represented by Ernesto Muyshondt. The officials also reported that terrorists attacked a crop duster in El Brazo Canton. The plane belonged to the San Miguel cotton growers cooperative. Although the plane was hit, the pilot was not killed. It was also officially reported that another group of terrorists attacked a crop duster as it was flying over Neto Company plantations. The pilot was not injured, although the plane was seriously damaged.

FMLN DAMAGES PLANE, REITERATES WARNING

PA200426 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Here is our military information: At 0700 on 19 September, FMLN guerrilla units used rifle fire against a crop duster near La Concordia, Jiquilisco jurisdiction, Usulutan Department. As a result of this attack, the plane was seriously damaged. This is the second light plane to be damaged by revolutionary fire in the past few hours. On the morning of Monday, 17 September, a cotton crop duster was hit by our fire in El Nino Canton, San Miguel jurisdiction.

For the past several weeks, Radio Venceremos has been warning the rich oligarchs that we will not allow these light planes to fly over their extensive cotton plantations. We reiterate our warning to the pilots of these crop dusting planes to refrain from flying over the cottonfields belonging to the rich oligarch, to refrain from flying over any cottonfield in eastern El Salvador, because our units have strict orders to fire at all planes that are dusting cotton crops. Since the Army is destroying the poor people's crops, the FMLN army will raze the rich people's cottonfields.

FMLN ACTIONS REPORTED IN SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS

Clash in Usulutan

PA200429 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Here is a report from the Francisco Sanchez Southeastern Front: At 0900 on 19 September, FMLN units surprised members of the former Ramon Belloso Battalion, now known to our people as the Coca Cola Battalion, that was trained in the United States.

The attack occurred in the area known as El Pozon, San Agustin jurisdiction, Usulutan; as the troops were about to regroup in San Agustin before withdrawing from the area after participating in an unsuccessful operation in the Tres Calles area. In this action, we killed four and wounded two members of the Coca Cola Battalion, making a total of six casualties sustained by the misnamed Belloso Battalion.

Ambush in Cuscatlan

PA202015 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Attention, Salvadoran people: At this time we are receiving reports on actions carried out by our revolutionary battalions. In the Modesto Ramirez Central Front our popular Army continues to wear down the enemy troops. At 0610 today, 20 September, units of the Rafael Aguinada Carranza Battalion, a member of the FMLN Revolutionary Armed Forces, ambushed a vehicle transporting members of the National Guard on the new highway from San Martin to Suchitoto. This National Guard vehicle was ambushed in the section of the Las Guaras Bridge and Istagua in Cuscatlan Department. This successful ambush was carried out with mines and rifle fire. The enemy suffered 12 casualties.

Train Destroyed in San Miguel

PA202021 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] At 1715 on 19 September, guerrilla units of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade placed explosive charges on the (Las Cocinas) railroad bridge in El Nino Canton, in San Miguel Department. The bridge, located at km 71, was partially destroyed as a result of our revolutionary action. The action of our guerrilla units caused the destruction of Train No 875 with 15 freight cars carrying cement and fuel. This was a hard blow to the puppet Army since the cement was being transported from Usulutan to San Miguel for the construction of a military airport planned by the warmongers of the U.S. Pentagon. The enemy had set up a security operation with troops of the 3d and 6th Infantry Brigades from the Lempa River to San Miguel. The train that was destroyed by our revolutionary forces was part of a convoy of three trains involved in this mission.

GUATEMALA

REFUGEES CONTINUE TO RETURN FROM MEXICO

PA202111 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Colonel [name indistinct] (Salaverria), Army public relations commander, has reported that the return of Guatemalan refugees is continuing. He denied reports that there are approximately 40,000 compatriots in Mexico.

[Begin (Salaverria) recording] The flow to Guatemala has not been that large, but constant. Thus far, 600 refugees have relocated in the new (Chaco) settlement which will be inaugurated early in October. We have no reports from official or any other sources stating that there are still Guatemalans going to Mexico as refugees. Therefore, as I said, the flow that is continuing is only to Guatemala. In addition, a census was conducted in all of the villages affected by the violence which forced the people to emigrate. This census disclosed that approximately 10,000 to 12,000 people are missing from these villages. Now, my question is: What is the source for the figures being announced on the number of refugees in Mexico? We are interested in knowing this. It would be good if someone would conduct a census in that country to establish how many Guatemalan refugees are there. [end recording]

ARMY TROOPS FIND REBEL HIDEOUT, WEAPONS

PA202010 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] It has been officially reported that four guerrillas were killed in two clashes with Army troops who had discovered an arms cache. One of the incidents occurred in Chixiya of Tactic, Alta Verapaz, where three guerrillas were killed, including Commander Patricia. The troops discovered an underground hideout where they found weapons of various calibers, ammunition, [word indistinct], food, pamphlets, and surgical material. It was said that a hospital for wounded guerrillas had operated there. Another terrorist was killed in an action in El Chal, La Libertad, El Peten. Weapons and personal supplies were seized from the rebel.

HONDURAS

MISSION WILL MEET WITH WORLD BANK, IMF

PA201747 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 19 Sep 84 p 3

[Text] The Honduran mission that will participate in the annual World Bank and IMF meeting will leave today for Washington, according to reports from the presidency. Central Bank President Gonzalo Carias, also governor of the World Bank; Finance and Public Credit Secretary Manuel Fontecha, governor of the IMF; and Secretarial Adviser Moises Starkman will attend the meeting in Washington. It has been reported that members of the commission renegotiating our external debt, presided over by Roberto Galvez Barnes, will also attend the meeting.

The Honduran officials and members of the commission will talk with representatives of international financial organizations to outline the government's goals in the national economic sector. The officials will present to the World Bank and IMF executives the Honduran Government's plans and future projects, mainly with the World Bank, and details of the new economic stabilization agreement with the IMF.

LOWER U.S. SUGAR QUOTA REPRESENTS SETBACK

PA201645 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 19 Sep 84 p 6

[Excerpts] The economic cabinet yesterday reviewed the problem that the Honduran sugar industry will face because the U.S. Government has reduced the import quota by 20,000 metric tons, setting it at 50,000 metric tons, said Secretarial Adviser Moises Starkman. The official said that he presented a report at the economic cabinet about his activities last week in Washington, regarding the government's economic and financial situation; the opportunity of exporting citrus fruit was also discussed.

If the United States does not increase Honduras' sugar export quota, the government will face a serious problem because we do not have an alternate market to sell the surplus 60 percent production destined for export. The economic cabinet meeting was attended by Presidency Secretary Ubodoro Arriaga; Economy and Commerce Secretary Miguel Orellana; Finance Secretary Manuel Fontecha; Natural Resources Secretary Miguel Angel Bonila; Communications, Public Works and Transportation Secretary Carlos Handal; Higher Council of Economic Planning [Consuplane] Executive Secretary Daniel Meza Palma; and Central Bank President Gonzalo Carias Pineda.

GOVERNMENT DECLARES ENEE WORKERS' STRIKE ILLEGAL

PA201749 Tegucigalpa Television Hondurena in Spanish 0343 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Excerpts] President Roberto Suazo Cordova called a Security Council meeting to discuss problems created by a strike called by union leaders of the National Enterprise for Electric Power, ENEE. Immediately after the meeting the government made an announcement on a national radio network, holding the union leaders responsible for the consequences of the strike. According to government spokesmen involved in the matter, the leaders, and not the workers affiliated with the union, are directly responsible for the strike. The announcement cleared the government's negotiating commission of charges made by the Union in a communique broadcast over the radio in the morning.

Meanwhile, a resolution issued this afternoon by the Labor and Social Welfare Secretariat and signed by President Roberto Suazo Cordova declared the ENEE workers' strike illegal.

NICARAGUA

DANIEL ORTEGA, D'ESCOTO DISCUSS KIDNAPPING, UN

PA210121 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 17 Sep 84 p 2

[Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Commander of the revolution, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, and Miguel D'Escoto, Foreign Minister, interviewed by reporters Sandra Luz Hernandez and Heliodoro Cardenas on 16 September in Managua -- all quotation marks as published]

[Text] Managua, 16 Sep -- "We wish to express the Nicaraguan people's affection for the Mexican people because they have defended the ideals they won with their independence, ideals which were later ratified by the Mexican revolution. We regard these ideals as very Latin American and, therefore, as very Nicaraguan. In the case of Nicaragua, this has been specifically demonstrated by the concern your country has shown for finding a peaceful solution to Central America's current problems."

Commander of the Revoluton Daniel Ortega Saavedra made this statement during an interview at an event held here in Nicaragua to commemorate Mexico's independence day. When Commander Ortega was asked about the recent kidnapping of Sandinist leaders in southern Nicaragua, he answered:

"A response has been received from the Costa Rican foreign minister who said that authorities there will be asked to investigate these kidnappings. On our part, our authorities have not yet closed the case."

Question: What can you tell us about Nicaragua's appearance at the United Nations?

Answer: The International community is interested in our position and the efforts for peace which are being promoted through the Contadora Group in France at the talks currently underway in Paris. Costa Rica and Nicaragua have promoted this peace initiative at the French Government's urging as a new effort to achieve peace in Central America. The international community is also interested in Nicaragua's willingness to hold a dialogue with the United States. This is a Mexican initiative; as is already known, Mexico has hosted most of the meetings held with the representatives of the Washington administration.

In Manzanillo, Nicaragua upheld its desire to maintain good relations with the United States, but said this depended on the evolution of the overall military situation in the region and, as is already known, on an end of the attacks against our nation.

"Despite the efforts made to achieve peace, the military situation remains tense and serious. The United States is openly escalating violence to the extent that the planes that attacked the Santa Clara base, where two children were killed, were provided by Washington to the CIA through its National Guard.

While claiming to endorse the Contadora Group's efforts, the United States steps up its attacks against Nicaragua and even defends the right of the mercenaries enlisted in its Armed Forces to carry out actions against the Nicaraguan people.

"We regard this as truly grave and damaging to the serious effort that that nation should be making to achieve specific results both within Contadora and in its dialogue with us.

"We regard our participation in and presence at the United Nations as important, considering the role that the international community plays in the UN efforts to achieve peace for Nicaragua and the isthmus, and in view of the support of that community, which is so necessary to our effort for checking the aggression endured by our country.

"We believe this gives us a change to hold direct contacts with representatives of various nations and to exchange information on the current situation in other parts of the world. We do not only think about Nicaragua; we are also interested in other regions of the world that have problems similar to ours.

"The subject of Central America was left pending at the previous United Nations Assembly session, but it will be discussed during the present session. We are sure that the policy of aggression will be condemned and that the idea of political solutions to regional problems will be endorsed. From our standpoint, the most important thing we must do is strengthen the line of political negotiation and weaken the interventionist political line advocated by U.S. imperialism.

"The escalation of aggression against Nicaragua entails an increasing U.S. commitment, a greater involvement that is being denounced even in that country. This escalation of aggression now extends to the Army, which used the National Guard to transfer planes to the CIA in order to attack us.

"This confirms the direct participation of that intelligence agency in the attacks on our sovereignty intended to weaken our electoral process. This is why U.S. activity in the region is the deciding factor that will determine whether the Contadora Group's efforts will advance. Unless the U.S. policy of aggression ends, such efforts will be seriously obstructed."

Question: It has been said that on the one hand Nicaragua is studying the Contadora Group's proposals and will state its position on them, but that on the other hand, Nicaragua is also impeding these efforts. What do you have to say about this, Commander?

Answer: "It is part of the U.S. campaign against Nicaragua at a time when it is generally known that our country decisively supports the Contadora Group's efforts. Nicaragua is the country that has been the most flexible toward the Group's efforts.

"We must keep preparing to continue the war, which might assume, for instance, the form of direct U.S. intervention. What is clear is that we must prepare for another 4 years and possibly even more of a war being sponsored by the government in Washington, as this was clearly stated in the Republican Party's platform, and everything seems to indicate that Reagan will be reelected in the United States.

"Meanwhile, we have adjusted the electoral campaign in Nicaragua to our country's current reality.

In other words, the campaign is not the main focus of attention in the country. Instead, emphasis has been placed on the effort to defend the fatherland and the revolution; it has been channeled into the great tasks that work and the supply effort entail." [sentence as published]

The reporters were also able to interview Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto at the same event marking the anniversary of our independence. When asked about the recent kidnappings and his government's efforts, he answered:

"When we learned that the persons abducted were in Costa Rica, we immediately sent a note to the Foreign Ministry in San Jose to request action to be taken to rescue and return these Nicaraguan citizens to Nicaragua. The Costa Rican Government does not admit that they are in that country, but Eden Pastora himself has confirmed this and there is not the slightest doubt that they are in Costa Rica. We hope that this regrettable situation can be resolved with the Costa Rican Government's cooperation."

Question: Foreign Minister, the kidnappers have suggested the possibility of an exchange for counterrevolutionary elements detained here. What is your position on this?

Answer: "It is evident that this operation reflects U.S. policy, which always seeks to mock the desire and willingness of the Costa Rican Government, especially on President Monge's part, to maintain an active neutrality toward the war against Nicaragua."

Question: What is your opinion of the action itself?

Answer: "It is a criminal action carried out against the Nicaraguan people because we have dared to free ourselves from the claws of imperialism. It is painful, sad, and regrettable because this action was committed by people who call themselves Nicaraguans and Christians. In fact this is a great lie, because this is a common crime, a profoundly anti-Christian action."

D. ORTEGA ON MILITARY STIUATION, PLANES

PA210145 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 Sep 84 p 5

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government will not negotiate with the kidnappers of Ray Hooker and Sandinist militant Patricia Delgado Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, said yesterday in Rama. He thus confirmed that the two are in the hands of CIA mercenaries commanded by traitor Pastora on Costa Rican territory.

Ortega added that the situation is unchanged and that Nicaragua has already reported this to Costa Rican authorities who are investigating the whereabouts of the hostages on their territory. As for the mercenaries' prisoner exchange proposals, Ortega said: "Their only option is to release them and not make such proposals."

Ortega pointed out that the CIA presence in Costa Rica is extensive but he said that it operates without the knowledge of the Costa Rican Government. As for the military situation, Ortega said that fighting against the mercenaries will continue in northern Nicaragua. Ortega added that clashes took place on 14, 15, and 16 September, but he did not give any details.

Ortega said that terrorist kidnappings of civilians have increased recently because the mercenaries have not been able to successfully hit important targets. This is why they murder and kidnap civilians, he said.

The Sandinist leader pointed out:

All this activity is linked to recent air attacks on Nicaragua and heavy mercenary concentrations in the Honduran border areas and in northern Costa Rica. Commander Ortega added that Nicaragua has every sovereign right to purchase combat and interceptor planes especially in view of air attacks like the one in Santa Clara in which several civilians, including four children, were killed. Ortega said:

"Nicaragua needs interceptor planes to detect CIA operations." He added: If we had that combat plane, the planes that attacked Santa Clara would not have been able to leave Nicaraguan territory. Perhaps, more U.S. mercenaries would have been killed during that attack.

As for the bodies of the two identified U.S. citizens who died during that attack, he said that Nicaragua is willing to repatriate them. However, the U.S. Government has applied pressure on their relatives to show no interest in this. The United States has ignored the wish of the relatives, Ortega said.

As for church-state relations, Ortega pointed out that the government is willing to hold talks and that the Nicaraguan mission that traveled to the Vatican is a positive effort to solve a situation that he described as "complicated."

"We are willing to hold taks," he added. However, Ortega said that those who call for talks with the murderers of the people must show their willingness for the talks. Commenting on statements made by Leon Bishop Msgr Barni, Ortega clarified: We do not follow a policy aimed at attacking bishops or the clergy. However, when they make political statements, they must also be ready for political answers.

BORGE DISCUSSES ACHIEVEMENTS OF REVOLUTION

AU201055 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 18 Sep 84 pp 1, 4

[Tomas Borge Martinez, member of the national leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), and minister of internal affairs of Nicaragua, interviewed by Danuta Walewska: "We Are Faithful To Our Ideals" -- in Warsaw; date not given]

[Text] Walewska: On 19 July this year, Nicaragua celebrated the fifth anniversary of the overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship. The 5 years of new authority have been difficult years, but ones full of important changes. What in your opinion is the most important achievement of the Sandinist revolution?

Borge: One success has been the struggle against illiteracy, as a result of which we have managed to reduce the number of illiterates among our population from 50 percent to 10 percent, a historic achievement. We have eliminated poliomyelitis, reduced infant mortality by one-half (from 200 to 100 per 1,000 births), eliminated the Somoza terror, and created a system where calm and joy reign. Mass organizations have emerged. Today, we have perhaps 100 times as many trade unions as before the revolution. We have organized our country's defense. We have managed to regain our national dignity and the country's independence. We have established relations with many countries in the world, including the socialist countries, which would have been unthinkable during the Somoza era.

However, our revolution's most important achievement has been the creation of a new man. What kind of man? One who can make sacrifices for others; one who is an internationalist and knows how to be a brother toward others. The creation of this kind of Nicaraguan has been our basic goal, and it is the greatest achievement of the Sandinist revolution.

Walewska: There will be general elections in Nicaragua in a few weeks time. At the end of July, Nicaraguans began to enter their names on voting lists. How many names are now on these lists? Has the opposition attempted any action aimed at boycotting the elections?

Borge: One and one-half million people have entered their names on the lists, half the population of Nicaragua. Everyone who should have entered his name has done so. This is more than we expected. Thus, 1 and 1/2 million people should take part in the elections.

There have been certain attempts to disrupt the preparations for the elections. They were meant to make it easy for the U.S. Government to find a pretext for direct intervention in Nicaragua; because it is difficult to undertake aggression against a government that has been elected legally. Washington is aware that we are knocking its weapons out of its hands, so it has begun to exert influence through its local supporters grouped inside the Democratic Coordinating Board in order to undermine the legality of the election process and of the government that has commenced this process. They tried the same arguments as before: "This is not a legal government. It is organizing elections, but they are not real elections. This government must be removed," and so on. The people who are conducting activity against the elections have, of course, not entered their names on the voting lists and will therefore be unable to take part in the elections.

Walewska: The economy in Nicaragua today is a war-type economy introduced because of the continuing undeclared war, constant counterrevolutionary activity, and economic sanctions. Will this be taken advantage of as a further stage in transforming the system of managing industry, agriculture, and distribution?

Borge: It is difficult to say whether we will take advantage of it. Today we are living from one day to the next and fighting for survival. We are face to face with the enemy. Aggression, economic sabotage, and even the preparations for the elections have all meant that we have neglected what is very important: the building of the economy. After the elections, we as members of the government will have to sit down and think about how to rescue the economy. We will have to consider on what basis and on what pattern to build it. The development of industry and agriculture is more important than anything else. However, we hope our country will not only be able to "stand on its own feet," but also to boldly march forward. We have received both political and economic signs of solidarity and support from many countries. We have received many gifts, but most of all the possibility has opened up for us to balance our foreign trade and gain economic independence. In the future we will try to make the most of this opportunity.

Walewska: The Nicaraguan revolution is one of a few, or perhaps the only one, where the clergy has been involved to such a degree. What do you think of the discrepancy between this involvement and the stance of that part of the hierarchy and clergy which today is among the opposition?

Borge: Contacts between our revolution and the Catholic leaders in Nicaragua started a long time before the victory of the revolution. At that time we sent a letter to Father Ernest Cardinal with a proposal to hold talks. As leaders of the revolution we were concerned by the following: What would happen in the country when the revolution was won? We were afraid there would be anarchy and that the people's reaction to Somoza's atrocities would be very violent. We believed that the Church would be able to help us. We want to prevent a "bloodbath." Priests started cooperating with us. Ties emerged which soon became stronger. We cooperated with Catholic organizations. We appreciated the huge importance of Christian ethics and its influence on the population. We regarded a series of demands from priests as revolutionary.

It was then that the beginnings of an alliance between Christian Nicaraguans and the Sandinists emerged -- an alliance which later permitted our church to march to victory together with the revolutionaries. But we remember one important feature -- the class struggle. The alliance between the priests and the Sandinists started to worry the Latin American bourgeoisie, including the high church hierarchy which from an ideological point of view was closely connected to the bourgeoisie. Both the Latin American Bishops Conference [CELAM] and leaders of the Latin American and Nicaraguan churches commenced activity aimed at a confrontation with the revolutionary process in Nicaragua. One must imagine what an alliance between the progressive church and the revolutionaries whould have meant for Latin America! It would have meant only one thing, the elimination of imperialism in this region. The Catholic Church representatives could not agree with this. Their church identified itself with imperialism and the bourgeoisie. They, therefore, started to proclaim that there was religious persecution in Nicaragua, although we have four priests in the government and not one clergyman has ever been imprisoned!

Yes, we were forced to deprive 10 foreign priests of their right to live in Nicaragua because their activity was unacceptable to us. We cannot tolerate it if a foreigner, even if he is a priest, uses a pulpit in order to call for cooperation with the counterrevolution. We decided to act energetically. At the same time we began talks aimed at eliminating this kind of situation. Even so, every foreign priest who comes to Nicaragua will have to respect the laws in force in our country.

Walewska: One feature of the Sandinists that is always emphasized is their close contact with the population. This contact takes place, among other things, during the "Face the People" meetings, where every week citizens can air their views directly to members of the government. With what kind of matters do people approach you as minister of internal affairs during these meetings?

Borge: "Face the People" is indeed one of the forms of discussion between us and the people. The only thing in my opinion is that during these meetings, which are often attended by journalists and TV cameras, dialogue is not as full as during our regular direct contacts. Indeed, people do present their grudges, suggestions, and advice. And one has to add that Nicaraguans are a very boisterous nation, and they always react sharply to any injustice or harm. For, unfortunately, injustice, harm, and other anomalies still occur.

Journalists often hear that people are protesting, criticizing, and pointing out mistakes, and from this they draw the conclusion that the nation is against revolution. Exactly the opposite is true.

We regard this as a concrete form of support for the revolution. Why should people bear a grudge against me? Is it because there is no toothpaste, or the quality of milk is poor, or someone's conduct is unjust, or a policeman has exceeded his authority? These are normal complaints from people, who can now say what they feel.

Walewska: Why are some people who were Sandinists during the struggle against the Somoza dictatorship involved with the counterrevolution today?

Borge: This has its origin in the class struggle. Soem of those who got involved with the revolution were not aware what it stood for. They thought that in this revolution the interests of the property class would remain untouched, that perhaps we would become an "appendage" of the United States, that the revolution would not make any fundamental decisions, that it would not give land to the peasants, and that the people would not determine how to divide the national income.

They thought that relations with foreign countries would remain as before. When they realized that it was a real revolution, and one which was leading to progress in all spheres, they decided to leave it. This is an old historical truth which has often repeated itself in Nicaragua.

Walewska: One of the American "accusations" against Nicaragua is that the "present government has departed from the principles of the Sandinist movement." Have these ide ls been altered, and if so in what way?

Borge: What sort of ideals can the U.S. Government talk about? It is a government without any ideals. It is a government of murderers and interventionists which exploits the natural resources of other countries. We are faithful to our ideals. We promised land to the peasants, now they have it. We promised to teach people how to read and write, we have done so. We promised to be free, sovereign, and independent, we are. We promised to establish contacts with all the countries of the world and we have done so. We said that our revolution would be a revolution of the working people and it is. All this we have promised. Why are they accusing us? Because we are implementing our strategic plan. And imperialism cannot accept any revolution. They do not like what is happening in Nicaragua, nor what is happening in Poland. They are against any progressive changes.

Walewska: The Sandinists have always been ready for dialogue with the United States. There has recently been another, fourth meeting in Manzanillo. Can we speak of any concrete results in these talk?

Borge: These talks were part of the Republicans' pre-election program, in other words they were meant to form additional "beautifying make-up" for President Reagan in his aggressive policy toward Central America. We agreed to take part in the talks because we will do anything to achieve peace. If only there is a chance to talk, we talk. The only trouble is that an evolution has occurred in the American conditions, and now these conditions are completely unacceptable to us. But even so we are negotiating and discussing things with the United States, and we will continue to do so.

Walewska: Since the Sandinists assumed power, Nicaragua and Poland have been joined by sincere friendly relations. The Polish people are keenly interested in what is happening in your country. What impressions are you taking with you from our country?

Borge: You are a sincere, sentimental, hospitable, and heroic people, with great national pride and extraordinary possibilities. I have been greatly impressed by my visit to your country. I am returning to Nicaragua as a friend and brother of the Poles. Everywhere we went, the wonderful expressions of friendship and solidarity with our revolution made a great impression on us. We feel we are in debt toward the Poles. I would also like to thank General Czeslaw Kiszczak, your minister of internal affairs, for the hospitality and for inviting me to Poland.

Walewska: Thank you very much for the interview, Commander.

FRIGATES INCIDENT VIEWED AS TYPICAL U.S. TACTIC

PA201756 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Sep 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Seeking an Incident?"]

[Text] The chain of provocations or situations which hint at the fact that the United States wants to intervene in Nicaragua increased on 17 September when 3 U.S. frigates marauded for hours in our waters approximately 8 to 10 miles off our Pacific coast. In an act of provocation, a military helicopter took off from one of these frigates and flew over our coast.

This action was preceded by threatening Yankee naval maneuvers near our territory. However, the extent of the presence of these frigates was greater and more dangerous. Even if it was just a provocation, its dangerous nature is evident. Our Armed Forces, which are tasked with repelling any attack, (let's recall the case of the helicopter) are being provoked in order to create "an incident."

It is not in vain that we have frequently recalled this tactic which the Yankees use so much as they did in Vietnam to justify the beginning of a war of destruction against North Vietnam after they invented an incident, precisely, with a U.S. warship. In the case of Nicaragua, the presence of these frigates (not only three) and the Yankee military bases in Honduras tend to support our theory that the Reagan administration is speeding up its crazy and warmongering race to establish springboards for an aggression by its troops against our country.

In both cases, whether it is intimidation or preparations for an impending invasion the seriousness of the matter should not go unnoticed in the world. The presence of warships in our waters, violating every international law, is occurring at a time when Reagan and his acolytes are toughening their remarks against Nicaragua and while thousands of CIA mercenaries are operating in our territory.

Whatever the case may be, the threatening presence of the frigates can only affect the bilateral talks that our government is holding with the United States. Washington continues loyal to its tactics, let's recall Vietnam and Korea once more, of sitting at a "negotiations" table while speeding up military aggression. This is typical of its foreign policy. In another sense, which is no less important, this type of provocation seriously hurts the Contadora Group's peace efforts.

The Nicaraguans reiterate their willingness to continue fighting the enemy in the northern mountains or wherever the case may be and to improve our daily preparations to face, in better conditions, the aggression of the Yankee Marines. But we feel that this type of provocation must worry the international community because it shows the profound contempt that Reagan has for the opinion of the rest of the world.

At the same time, we must not forget that there are forces inside our country that are cynically talking about a "civil war" and alleged "rebels" ignoring, like an ostrich, that which anybody with eyes can see. But they, just as the invaders, will go to a grave in history after being defeated, if they commit the crazy act of attacking us.

RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH EQUATORIAL GUINEA

PA202020 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1727 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Foreign Ministry's press office document reporting the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Equatorial Guinea -- read by Noel Fuentes]

[Text] The Governments of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and the Republic of Nicaragua, seeking ties of friendship and cooperation based on the principles of mutual respect, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, nonintervention in the domestic affairs of states, and equal rights amoung states have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. Such relations are effective as of today, Thursday, 20 September 1984.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH POLAND

PA201800 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and Polish Foreign Minister Stefan Olszowski yesterday signed a cooperation agreement during a ceremony held at the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry. The cooperation agreement establishes that Poland will provide assistance to Nicaragua in the fields of health and agricultural aviation. It also establishes the promotion of cultural exchange between the two sister peoples.

It was stressed that, despite its limitations, Poland has been giving the Nicagaraguan people moral and material support, mainly in the fields of health and agriculture. The two foreign ministers sealed the signing of the agreement with an embrace reflecting the fraternal friendship and solidarity between the Polish and Nicaraguan peoples.

Olszowski Departs

PA202012 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Polish Foreign Minister Stefan Olszowski was bid farewell today at the Cesar Augusto Sandino International Airport by Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, after concluding a 2-day visit to Nicaragua. While issuing statements to the national and international news media, Companero Olszowski, who is a member of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, asserted that his talks with the revolutionary leaders will contribute to strengthening the friendly relations between Nicaragua and Poland.

The talks with Commander Daniel Ortega, Victor Manuel Tirado, and Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto were held in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding, Olszowski said. He also said that new agreements were signed during his visit for collaboration in the fishing, agricultural, and health sectors, and they will be increased during the next year.

The Polish foreign minister is on his way to New York to attend the 39th meeting of the UN General Assembly, which will be held in the next few days.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON CDN INCIDENT IN LEON

PA201807 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Interior Ministry Public Relations Department communique issued in Managua on 19 September; read by announcer]

[Text] The Interior Ministry reports the following to the Nicaraguan people:

1. At 1100 on 19 September, Mr Arturo Cruz and other members of the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN], accompied by about 50 people, arrived in the city of Leon and succeeded to meet at the house of Mr Leonel Briceno.

2. Approximately 2,000 residents of the city gathered in front of Mr Briceno's house to express their rejection of the presence of the CDN members in Leon.

3. Aware that a heated atmosphere existed, the Interior Ministry, through the Sandinist police, took the necessary measures to prevent property damage or any other incidents that might have had unfortunate consequences.

4. At approximately 1430, when they had ended their meeting, Mr Briceno requested Sandinist police protection so that the CDN members and those accompanying them could leave the house. The Sandinist police immediately proceeded to move the demonstrators away and provided protection to all the participants of the meeting, who left without incident.

5. When Mr Cruz, who had adopted a provocative attitude, was leaving a woman broke through the police barricade and pulled his hair. This was the only physical contact between the demonstrators and the participants of the meeting.

6. All the participants of the meeting were taken in Sandinist police patrol cars to where they had left their vehicles, which they then immediately used to travel to Managua. The Sandinist police escorted them to the outskirts of the city.

7. The Sandinist police and the members of the Interior Ministry carried out their duty properly, preventing harm to property and to the physical integrity of individuals.

Issued in Managua on 19 September 1984. Public Relations Department of the Interior Ministry.

Cruz Condemns Leon Incident

PA210317 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Dr Arturo Cruz, Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN] presidential candidate, made exclusive statements to "Impact News" on the incident that occurred yesterday in Leon as he and other top CDN leaders were meeting with leaders, students, and workers of that community.

[Begin Cruz recording] What happened yesterday in Leon is truly regrettable. I would describe it as shameful. As a Nicaraguan citizen, I am deeply offended to see that there are politicians who degrade their own compatriots by using them as a means of instilling fear. Yesterday's incident is part of a campaign to frighten the citizens who have shown a determination to demand democratic elections and to participate in the elections if the democratic conditions are present.

In my opinion, what happended in Leon, which is known to all, was a well-orchestrated action carried out by government politicians. While we were meeting with Leon CDN leaders student, workers, and politicians, we were surrounded by a large group of people who insulted us and prevented us from leaving at the end of the meeting.

The objective of this action was obviously to show the government's repudiation toward us because there were public demonstrations in Chinandega and Matagalpa in August that the Sandinist activists could not disturb because the people rejected them. Following yesterday's incident, and always within this well-orchestrated plan, the police arrived. However, I must acknowledge that we called the police and they arrived quickly and acted with great efficiency and very courteously. [end recording]

ELECTIONS COULD BE POSTPONED IF ATTACKS CEASE

PA202330 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2116 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Mariano Fiallos, president of the Supreme Electoral Council of Nicaragua, said in Washington today that if the attacks from Honduras cease and the U.S. warships are withdrawn from the Nicaraguan coasts, the Sandinist government would agree to a postponement of the elections.

The AFP dispatch dated in Washington explains that Fiallos Oyanguren said that in the framework of the priority issue of war, Nicaragua cannot afford to prolong an electoral process that absorbs many resources. After stating that the postponement of the elections is unlikely, Fiallos pointed out that if as a result of the Contadora Group negotiations or the U.S.-Nicaragua negotiations that took place in Manzanillo, Mexico, the Army supported by the United States and based in Honduras and Costa Rica ceases its attacks, and the U.S. warships are withdrawn from Nicaragua's coasts, then a postponement of the elections could be taken into consideration.

Meanwhile, Dr Mariano Fiallos Oyanguren said in Washington that the Nicaraguan Government does not plan to invite observers from the OAS to the elections. Asked about the reasons why OAS observers were not invited, Fiallos briefly answered that Nicaragua considers it more appropriate to invite the United Nations and not the OAS.

PARTIES CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT 'STRONGER'

PA161750 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Sep 84

[Text] As the electoral campaign reached the 6-week mark today; criticism of the Nicaraguan Government by six of the seven political parties that will participate in the November general elections has become increasingly stronger.

The opposition Popular Social Christian Party; which this weekend is actively campaigning in the Nicaraguan provinces, uses the tense relations between the Sandinist Government and the Catholic Church as the target of its attacks. Meanwhile, the Independent Liberal Party [PLI], the most combative of the opposition parties, is calling on the other parties to hold a national dialogue to discuss the possibility of postponing the elections until February 1985. The PLI organized a political rally over the weekend in the Bluefields area on the Atlantic coast, approximately 38 km from Managua. The Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua, an important opposition force in the country, has rejected the proposal to postpone the elections. However it maintains that the electoral guarantees offered by the government are insufficient.

AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON NATION'S PRESENCE AT UN

FL200140 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Cuba's election to one of the vice presidential seats at the UN General Assembly is testimony of the international community's support for our country, said Cuba's Ambassador to the UN Oscar Oramas Oliva today at the UN.

Oramas believes this support is the international community's response to the blockading policies with which the imperialists have wanted to sink us.

The Cuban diplomat stressed that Cuba continues as vice president of the Committee for Exercising the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and became a member of the UN's Commission on the Verification of Rights.

Cuba's representation on three UN boards is a reversal to continuing U.S. maneuvers.

Oramas Oliva emphasized the importance of the General Assembly holding session at a time characterized by increased imperialistic activities.

He said he was convinced that the international community would remain firm on preserving the UN, because it is a necessity for retaining dialogue and peace.

MEXICO'S SEPULVEDA URGES SUPPORT FOR CONTADORA

PA202014 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Juan Roberto Laforte, PRELA correspondent, report in Mexico City -- recorded]

[Text] Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda has said he hopes that the Central American countries will accept the commitments contained in the Contadora Document recently delivered to the five Central American governments.

During a luncheon he gave for his Australian counterpart William Hayden, Sepulveda said: We hope, with optimism, that the Central American governments will sign the Contadora agreement containing legal commitments. He reiterated his concern about serious threats to world peace and the attempts to impose solutions of force on the Central American conflict.

He noted that reason, the law, and the world's willingness for peace based on negotiation, must prevail. Sepulveda urged countries with ties and interests in the area to do their part so that the Contadora Document can be approved soon to thwart groups favoring war, guarantee peaceful coexistence, and promote the area's economic and political development.

The Mexican foreign secretary emphasized that the negotiation process promoted by Contadora has borne undeniable fruits which make the goals of peace and cooperation closer in the search for social and economic development in Central America.

He criticized the protectionism of industrialized countries and speculative fluctuations in the prices of raw materials in certain developed countries, which endangers the survival of independent states.

Sepulveda said that the problem of the foreign debt has become a painful daily experience which has imposed unprecedented sacrifices and is undeniable proof of the deficiencies of the current international economic system.

GDR TO BROADEN ENERGY CONSERVATION COOPERATION

FL200156 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 19 Sep 84

[Text] Cuba and the GDR have agreed, in Berlin, on a new work plan which will broaden bilateral cooperation in the energy conservation field.

The official conversations were held between the respective vice presidents of the councils of State and Ministers of Cuba and the GDR, Joel Domenech Benitez and (Wolfgang Routen).

Also agreed on was the participation of a GDR delegation at Cuba's first forum on energy, which will be held in Havana on 2-4 December.

ENERGY OFFICIAL DOMENECH MEETS WITH GDR'S STOPH

For East Berlin coverage the visit to the GDR by Joel Domenech, vice president and chairman of the National Energy Commission of Cuba, see the GDR section of the 21 September Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

CP MEMBER VAZQUEZ VISITS GDR, MEETS MITTAG

For East Berlin coverage of the visit to the GDR by Lazaro Vazquez Garcia, alternate member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and first secretary of the Camaguey Province leadership, including a meeting with Guenter Mittag, member of the GDR Politburo and secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Central Committee, see the GDR section of the 21 September Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

EDUCATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA

FL201612 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1211 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] The Cuban Institute of Agricultural-Livestock Sciences of Havana and the Slovak Advanced Agricultural School of Ni[illegible] have signed an agreement with the goal of increasing scientific and technical cooperation in the field of education. The principal area covered in the document is the training of professional teachers, in which area the Slovak university has been providing valuable assistance for many years.

Dr Efrain Abreau, rector of the Institute of Agricultural-Livestock Sciences of Havana, said that the protocol signed is an example of the friendly ties that join the two nations and especially the two advanced educational centers, thanks to the mutual exchange between socialist nations.

CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ MEETS WITH USSR'S TIKHONOV

FL201956 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1803 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Nikolay Tikhonov, CPSU Political member and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, met today with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Cuba and vice president of the Council of Ministers.

They discussed various matters concerning CEMA's next working session, and bilateral relations between Cuba and the Soviet Union.

At the meeting, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez presented Tikhonov with Cuban President Fidel Castro's official invitation to attend the 39th CEMA meeting which will be held in Cuba at the end of October.

MINISTTER GUELMES ENDS VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

FL201506 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1429 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Cuban Communications Minister Pedro Guelmes today ended a working visit to Yugoslavia during which he and Yugoslav officials examined the possibility of increasing bilateral cooperation in communications. During his stay, Guelmes met with the vice president of the Federal Executive Council, Janez Zemljaric; the president of the Federal Committee for Transportation and Communications, Nazmi Mustafa; and the chief of the post office, telephone, and telegraph system, Vucic Cagorovic; and others.

AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG APPOINTED

FL201134 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1102 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] The Council of State has designated Comrade Teresita Averhoff Puron ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba to the Kingdom of Belgium andthe Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, with her residence in Brussels. At the time of her appointment, Comrade Averhoff Puron held the position of deputy director of the Directorate for Foreign Policy Planning, Ministry of Foreign Relations.

LABOR OFFICIAL MEETS WITH ETHIOPIAN MINISTER

FL202022 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1817 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Ethiopia's Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Bayeh Berhanu has met with Enrique Gutierrez, first vice minister of Cuba's State Committee for Labor and Social Security, who is visitng Addis Ababa. The two officials discussed cooperation between Cuban and Ethiopian labor unions, bilateral relations, and international political matters.

VALDES MENENDEZ CONTINUES ZIMBABWE VISIT

FL201348 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Ramiro Valdes Menendez, commander of the revolution and member of the Politburo, traveled today to Masvingo Province on the second day of his official and friendly visit to Zambabwe. THE HERALD, a national newspaper, and Zimbabwean radio and television announced the Cuban leader's arrival yesterday in Salisbury, where he was received by high-level officials in the State Security Ministry and by members of the Cuban diplomats mission. Valdes Menendez' visit is considered a new step in strengthening the fraternal relations between the peoples and governments of the two countries.

PUBLISHING CONTRACTS WITH VIETNAM, OTHERS SIGNED

FL202108 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1811 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Vietnam and Cuba today signed a contract on cooperation and the exchange of editorials at the Havana Libre Hotel's Solidarity Hall.

The contract was signed by (Dan Van Long), vice director of the Vietnamese (Publishing House), and Rolando Castano, vice director of Edicones, Cuba's enterprise. As had previously been reported, contracts had been signed with the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, and Poland, during the Havana 84 book fair.

MALMIERCA RECEIVES KAMPUCHEAN OFFICIAL

FL201312 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Isidoro Malmierca, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister, has received Kampuchean Vice Foreign Minister Kong Korm, who is visiting Cuba in accordance with an exchange plan between the two countries' foreign ministries. At the meeting, they reviewed the international situation, particularly the serious situations in Central America, the Caribbean, and Southeast Asia, brought about by U.S. imperialism and by the United States' regional allies.

The Cuban minister reiterated to the distinguished guest the support and solidarity of the Cuban party, government, and people for the just cause of the Kampuchean people.

U.S. LAWYERS GROUP HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

FL201238 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Professor (Asa Kinow) of New York has said in Havana: Our stay in Havana shows the possibility of opening the way to greater understanding and communication between our peoples, which is the most important task in the immedate future for the preservation of peace in the world. He made the statement in a press conference held for Cuban and foreign journalists by the group of U.S. lawyers who traveled to Cuba despite President Reagan's decison to investigate professionals who come to the country. The group traveled to Havana to take part in the first scientific symposium on policy and ideology in law, which opens today.

COMMENTARY DEPLORES U.S. PRESSURE IN COSTA RICA

PA201540 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 19 Sep 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Government is strengthening the southern flank of its undeclared war against Nicaragua. Two recent events have confirmed this: the transfer of the counterrevolutionary group the Nicaragua Democratic Force, formerly based in Honduras, to the northern area of Costa Rica and the installations in Costa Rican territory of a repeater station of the Voice of America, which broadcasts from Washington.

Fernando Chamorro, one of the counterrevolutionary leaders, in statements to Costa Rican journalists, admitted that the main purpose for transferring the organization is to speed up preparations to carry out actions against Nicaragua.

After it was confirmed that counterrevolutionaries have set up camp in Las Delicias farm in the Pocosol jurisdiction in the San Carlos Los Chiles region, the official denial that these groups are not based on Costa Rican territory was proved untrue.

Ana Maria Vargas, Ciudad Quesada's fiscal agent, has offically requested an investigation of these counterrevolutionary activities and asked that these groups' arms be confiscated. The Costa Rican judicial police, however, refused to carry out the investigation under the pretext of a lack of funds.

Another counterrevolutionary leader, identified as Commander Lobo, has announced that his followers will mine the San Juan River in the next few weeks to make the Sandinist People's Army defenses ineffective and to initiate systematic attacks against Nicaraguan villages.

Well-informed news sources in San Jose have said that the plan includes the possibility of provoking a border incident between Costa Rica and Nicaragua in order for the OAS to implement the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty, TIAR, the same instrument that Washington used to consummate the U.S. armed intervention in the Dominican Republic in 1965.

The Costa Rican Government has so far maintained a passive stance regarding all these facts. The public security and government ministries have declined to comment on the counterrevolutionaries' war preparations against Nicaragua, even after it was learned that at least 250 mercenaries have been training for the past 40 days in the San Carlos region, some 190 km north of San Jose, to launch an attack against several Nicaraguan border areas.

In addition, the Costa Rican foreign minister has refused to discuss the presence of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries in his country. All this has to be added to the pressure being exerted by General Paul Gorman, chief of the U.S. Army Southern Command, so that Costa Rica would agree to accept U.S. military engineers in the country's north. Gen Gorman has also put pressure on Costa Rica to participate in joint military exercises with U.S. Armed Forces.

Despite Costa Rica's proclaimed neutrality, Francisco Tacsan, chief official of the Public Security Ministry, has said that his country seeks "police" assistance in the United States and mentioned a request for U.S. ammunition and arms for the Costa Rican police forces.

These facts contradict the Costa Rican Government's proclaimed neutrality and might hurt its good relations with the region's sister nations. In addition, Costa Rica would only manage to end its peaceful living, so much appreciated by Costa Ricans, through this military cooperation with the United States.

HONDURANS COMMENT ON COUP RUMORS, U.S. TREATY

PA201606 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Ubodoro Arriaga, secretary of the presidential office, has said that there is a group in the country trying to seize power through a coup d'etat.

Meanwhile, the Honduran Government has announced that it will sign the Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America submitted by the Contadora Group.

Concurrently, Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica said he was going to reveal the contents of the secret talks on the bilateral military agreement between the United States and Honduras, which have been going on for over a week, in response to strong protests leveled by some opposition deputies over the secrecy in which these talks have been carried out. These deputies are demanding that Suazo Cordova's administration submit to the Honduran legislative branch the amendments to the military cooperation agreement with the United States for its approval or rejection.

FORMER GRENADIAN OFFICIAL SCORES U.S. AREA PLANS

PA202059 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] In an interview published by the Soviet newspaper SOVETSKAYA KULTURA, Grenadian journalist Don Rojas, former press secretary of the government of the late Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, stated that the United States is trying to militarize the Caribbean and create a new base in Grenada. Therefore, he added, it is very important for all countries in the area to remain united in view of these U.S. Government attempts.

Rojas stressed the need to make the Caribbean a zone of peace. He said that all of the news received by Grenadians is carried by the Voice of America which, together with the Yankee occupation troops, is involved in a psychological effort to debase Bishop's government and its socioeconomic achievements.

CHILEAN EXILES HOLD PROTEST MEETING IN MEXICO

FL201104 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] The Chilean exile community in Mexico has strongly condemned the violation of the right to live in Chile by the Augusto Pinochet dictatorship, which has prohibited 5,000 people from returning to the South American country.

At an open meeting the exiles reviewed a list published by the military regime, which includes the names of more than 5,000 people who are prohibited from entering Chile.

The assembly called the list an aberration and a violation of a very important human right, the right to freely enter one's homeland.

WEEK-LONG UNITAS MANEUVERS WITH URUGUAY BEGIN

PA201957 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] U.S. and Uruguayan forces today began the 25th Unitas Maneuvers in the South Atlantic, which will last 1 week. The U.S. fleet participating in these maneuvers consists of four ships and one nuclear submarine.

EXPLOSION AT U.S. EMBASSY IN LEBANON NOTED

PA210401 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Sep 84

[Text] Over 20 dead and approximately 60 injured is the initial toll in the explosion of a booby-trapped automobile which was directed by a suicidal commando group at a building that was refurbished early last month to house U.S. diplomatic personnel in Lebanon. The injured include U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew and British Ambassador David Miers, who was visiting the building.

The action, for which the Islamic Jihad or Holy War organization has claimed credit, was described by U.S. President Ronald Reagan as another demonstration of the threat that exists toward his government.

We must live with that threat and we realize that our people will be attacked wherever they are, Ronald Reagan said. The death of 300 U.S. Marines in an attack on the headquarters of the U.S. contingent last year had a negative effect on Reagan's reelection hopes. Some months before, in April 1983, the same Islamic Jihad group staged a similar attack on a U.S. Embassy building in Beirut killing 17 U.S. citizens.

FINANCE MINISTERS END MEETING, ISSUE COMMUNIQUE

FL210144 Bridgetown CANA in English 2355 GMT 20 Sep 84

[By Bertram Niles]

[Text] Toronto, Sept 20, CANA -- Commonwealth finance ministers have agreed to pay special attention to the problems of small states like those in the Caribbean. In the communique issued tonight at the end of a two-day meeting here, the ministers urged the international community to undertake as a matter of urgency the search for solutions to the economic problems of these states.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal told reporters that a number of ministers, including some from the Caribbean, talked of being crowded out by the big debtor nations in the attempts to solve the debt crisis.

The ministers also supported the position of Barbados on the danger of the use by the World Bank of per capita income as the sole factor in excluding some Third World nations, because of their superior economic performance, from development assistance. They noted the danger this would pose for continued access to the bank lending by countries which still had a great need for external resources to promote balance and more stable development, the communique said.

Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams who chaired today's final session, when asked about the outcome of the conference for the Caribbean, told CANA, "I am well pleased. The conference was fully supportive of the situation in small states."

The mandate to the Commonwealth Secretariat to address these island states follows a study mandated by heads of government on the security question after the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada. Ramphal told CANA that as the experts on this issue, including former Barbados Foreign Minister Henry Forde, have met, the economic dimension more and more has come to the fore.

Nineteen Commonwealth states have populations of less than a million, including 11 of the Caribbean Community (Caricom).

Adams noted that the plan to graduate Barbados (and Trinidad and Tobago) from World Bank funds had been de facto shelved. He said Barbados programmes with the bank will continue and the island will shortly be making an application for funds to rebuild more primary schools.

"In general terms, the Caribbean falls within that group of small low income countries who are not among the poorest...and who can be squeezed, can be forgotten in solutions which look only to the major debtors," Secretary-General Ramphal said, commenting on the World Bank attempts at graduation, and the fear of designated middle-income developing countries whose per capita incomes makes them ineligible for interest-free loans from the bank.

The ministers expressed disappointment that the economic recovery in industrialised states was yet to spread to developing countries generally and that many of them were still facing severe difficulties despite the fact that they had adopted courageous adjustment programmes. They spoke of concern at continuing high interest rates and said that protectionism was persisting while commodity prices, on which many developing countries depend, has again begun to fall.

All but one country, believed to be Britian, supported the call for an immediate and substantial increase in the allocation of special drawing rights. The International Monetary Fund's artificial reserve assets are counted in international reserves and would go some way towards helping developing countries.

The ministers pointed to continuing sluggishness of aid flows, and said that prospects for increases in these flows remained poor. They made a special appeal for funds on behalf of the poorest countries, particularly in Subsahara Africa.

Most of the ministers were leaving here tonight for Washington to attend next week's meetings of the IMF and the World Bank.

BAHAMAS

GOVERNOR GENERAL ASKED TO DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT

FL191548 Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] A letter calling upon Governor-General Sir Gerald Cash to "invoke his constitutional powers to dissolve Parliament" was delivered to Government House this morning by representatives of the National Polling Commission. Delivering the letter were the Commission's Chairman Lucius Sturrup and Assistant Chairman Van Deveaux, who were accompanied by Black Village residents Jonathan P. Robinson and Henry Dummett. The letter was signed by Mr Sturrup and Mr Deveaux.

The recommendation made to the governor-general was based on the results of a poll conducted on Bay Street on Wednesday, which was designed to gauge the confidence of the Bahamian people in the government of Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling. The majority decision of 1,843 voters who participated in the public opinion poll was that Prime Minister Pindling and his government should go -- 1,547 or 84 percent wanted him to resign; 296 or 16 percent were against the resignation. Voters were asked the question: "Should Prime Minister Pindling and the PLP resign? Yes or No."

"While the poll shows clearly that the Bahamian people are demanding a new government now, the Prime Minister has publicly stated that he will not call elections now," the letter said. The letter further stated that this conflict between the voting majority and the governing minority is unhealthy for democracy in the Bahamas.

"The spirit of the Constitution is that the government is the servant of the people. Sir Lynden's attitude on the other hand suggests that the government is not accountable to the people," the letter read. It was this attitude, said the letter, "that forces one to turn to you (the governor) for the simple solution to this crisis that threatens law, order, and stability in the country," it continued.

Sir Gerald Cash was asked to consider the results of the September 12 poll as "vital evidence that general elections are a must now."

BARBADOS

ADAMS ON PREMATURE U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM GRENADA

FL192010 Bridgetown CANA in English 1949 GMT 19 Sep 84

[By Bertram Niles]

[Text] Toronto, Sep 19, CANA -- Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams has counselled against premature withdrawal of American and Caribbean forces from Grenada. Adams' comments were made in a speech yesterday in Montreal to the Canadian Institute of International Affairs that sought to explain the thinking behind last October's invasion of Grenada. Canada had criticised the action.

Troops and policemen from the United States and the seven West Indian islands that took part in the military intervention have been stationed on the island on what's called a peace-keeping mission. The foreign forces will stay in St George's until at least a new government is elected in a vote expected in November to restore the country's parliamentary system.

The withdrawal of United States and eventually of Caribbean forces is of course an essential part of the process of re-establishing normalcy in Grenada. However, the dangers of a premature withdrawal must not be minimised, Adams said. This could open the way for those who would wish to see Grenada thrown into further confusion and turmoil and reverse the process since last October, the Barbados prime minister added. He noted concerted efforts underway to reinforce and upgrade Grenada's police force.

Since Grenada, Mr Adams said, it is clearer than ever before that the economic and military security of the entire eastern Caribbean must be placed on a sounder footing, and I therefore welcome Canada's recent offer to provide training assistance in this country for the Barbados Defence Force...

The Barbados Army, like the security forces from other participating countries on the Grenada peace-keeping mission, has recently been in receipt of increased American military aid. However, Adams said, he would rather focus on economic help for the Caribbean and said Canada can play a pivotal role in the recovery of regional economies from the recession. He welcomed Canadian aid to Grenada.

Adams suggested an early Canada-Caribbean summit to assess post-Grenada relations as a follow-up to one held in St Lucia last year, sharing a view expressed in a Canadian newspaper this week by St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister James Mitchell.

GRENADA

BRATHWAITE ON CUBAN, SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN REGION

FL192206 Bridgetown CANA in English 1815 GMT 19 Sep 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Sept 19, CANA -- Cuba and the Soviet Union have failed in a number of attempts to have Grenada barred from taking its seat in a number of international forums since last October's U.S.-led military intervention of the island, Nicolas Brathwaite, head of the Grenada interim government, said.

Since the intervention, there have been several unsuccessful bids by the Cubans and the Russians to get the island barred from attending sittings of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Brathwaite said. He told CANA today that both Cuba and the Soviet Union, which were allies of Grenada during the rule of the left-wing People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), always failed in their attempt to get enough support to have Grenada thrown out of these activities.

Brathwaite said he believed that the Soviet bloc would continue to attack Grenada even after an elected government replaces the interim government in general elections scheduled for later this year because of the "great setback" they suffered in this country. "I think that they had come to the point where they saw Grenada as the bastion in the southern Caribbean, Cuba in the north, and Nicaragua in Central America," he remarked. "I think they looked to these three as putting them in a position where communism could really take hold of the region eventually. And it must have been a great shock to them, especially because of the sudden developments here," he said.

U.S. troops unseated a Marxist hardline faction which toppled the PRG in a military coup in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and several others were killed. The invasion took place October 25 and the interim government has promised elections here before the end of the year.

According to Brathwaite, Havana "has lost a great deal in Grenada and I would not be surprised if for a long time to come they would continue to make harsh remarks about the situation in Grenada even after a government is elected."

"I think for sometime to come even after a government is elected, they are going to still raise objections to Grenada's legal representatives on spurious grounds," he said. The head of the Grenada interim government charged that the Cubans and their communist allies would certainly attempt to put forward the argument in international fora that the elected government was installed with foreign troops still on Grenadian soil. U.S. and Caribbean troops are still in Grenada trying to help keep the peace and maintain law and order while a police force is being rebuilt to replace them.

The behaviour of the Cubans and other Eastern bloc countries is rather strange, Brathwaite said, because these are the same people who find nothing wrong about Afghanistan which the Soviet Union invaded in 1979.

DISAGREEMENT OVER CANDIDATES NOTED IN COALITION

FL201446 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] From Grenada -- Just days after a newly-formed coalition of moderate parties announced its slate for the coming elections, members of one party said they would not accept three candidates fielded by another party. The New National Party [NNP] comprising the National Democratic Party, the Grenada Democratic Movement, and the Grenada National Party [GNP] Saturday published its list of 15 candidates for parliamentary elections scheduled before the end of the year. But sources in the NDA [as heard] said yesterday they opposed the candidacy of three GNP members and said that they would ask for their removal from the slate. They said the nominees suffered from a lack of popularity. The NDP sources said there would definitely be changes in the proposed NNP slate. The NNP was formed August 26, after months of negotiations among leaders of four different parties.

NJM WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN 1984 ELECTIONS

FL201814 Bridgetown CANA in English 1630 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Sept 20, CANA -- Grenada's left-wing New Jewel Movement (NJM) will not be taking part in the general elections expected before the end of this year, according to Ian St Bernard, an executive member of the party.

One of the reasons given for this decision was what St Bernard called "the massive propaganda campaign started by Washington after the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada last October 25. According to St Bernard, one of the main objectives of the campaign has been to destroy the image of the NJM in the eyes of the people of Grenada, and this to a great extent has been achieved. He said there could be no free and fair elections in the country as long as the foreign troops -- American and Caribbean -- remain.

The U.S. has scaled down its military presence here, but there is no indication how soon all U.S. security personnel will be off the island. Caribbean governments have not set a deadline for withdrawing their soldiers and police personnel, which are maintaining the peace here.

JAMAICA

GOVERNMENT DEVALUES CURRENCY BY 9.25 PERCENT

FL191346 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 19 Sep 84

[Text] The Jamaican Government yesterday put into effect a new bidding range for the purchase of foreign exchange, thus devaluing the Jamaican dollar for the third time since last November. A two-paragraph order, issued by the government Monday night said bidders at the twice-weekly auctions for U.S. dollars must now offer between $4 Jamaican and $4.30 Jamaican for each U.S. dollar they want to buy. Before yesterday, bidders had to offer between $3.70 Jamaican and $4 Jamaican for the same U.S. dollars.

The new parity order represents a 9.25 percent devaluation in Jamaica's currency. The order, signed by Prime Minister Edward Seaga, also outlines stiffer requirements for foreign exchange bidders. As of tomorrow, bids must be accompanied with documents proving the bidders paid their income tax and five other taxes. There was no explanation for the new devaluation, the third of a series of small ones announced since November, when the currency was devalued 70 percent.

PRIME MINISTER SAYS NO EARLY ELECTIONS

FL201830 Kingston Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Prime Minister Edward Seaga says there will be no early general elections in Jamaica. The prime minister made this declaration in Toronto, Canada, where he is attending the Commonwealth finance ministers conference. He says the next general elections will be, at the latest, January 10, 1989. The prime minister told members of the Jamaican community in Toronto that the elections of last December gave his administration another 5 years to continue trying to remedy the social and economic ills of Jamaica inherited from the 1970's. [passage indistinct]

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

MARTINA MEETS WITH NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER

FL171448 Hilversum International Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Sep 84

[Text] Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek has visited Curacao, where he discussed the problem of drugs-running with outgoing Antillean Prime Minister Dom Martina. Minister Van den Broek promised Dom Martina to raise the matter in Colombia, where he arrived on Sunday night. The Netherlands Antilles are being used as a transit port for smuggling Colombian cocaine and marijuana to the United States. According to Dom Martina, the drugs-runners are more and more concentrating on the Antilles themselves, now that the U.S. market is being saturated.

At the moment, 84 Colombians are being held in the Antilles on drugs charges. The Antillean Government would like to see an extradition treaty between the Netherlands and Colombia.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

DRIVERS UNION FARE HIKE REQUEST REJECTED

FL201650 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 13 Sep 84 p 1

[By Maximo Manuel Perez]

[Excerpt] The government has rejected a request by drivers trade unions to raise urban transport fares by 10 centavos, saying the amount is excessive.

That was reported by Rafael Estrella, administrative secretary of the presidency, who also announced that President Salvador Jorge Blanco was studying a recommendation by the joint directorate of the National Office for Land Transportation [Onatrate] that the increase be only 5 centavos.

The official, speaking at a press conference in his office at the National Palace, said the unions had requested the Government to raise fares by 10 centavos after the price of gasoline had been set at RD$2.95 per gallon.

SURINAME

ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GRAANOOGST RESIGNS POSTS

PM201524 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 17 Sep 84 p 1

[ANP dispatch: "Surinamese Army Chief of Staff Graanoogst Resigns Posts"]

[Text] Paramaribo -- Surinamese Army Chief of Staff Captain Iwan Graanoogst has resigned all his posts. He has done so to "give the legal authorities the opportunity to investigate the rumors about him that are currently circulating in the community," Surinamese leader Desi Bouterse announced at a meeting Saturday [15 September].

According to Suriname's SNA press agency, before he announced Graanoogst's resignation Bouterse said that "corruption will be combated regardless of the individual concerned." There are indications that certain individuals have engaged in corrupt activities, Bouterse said.

Graanoogst himself was present at the meeting. A few weeks ago his name was mentioned in connection with serious suspicions that he was guilty of fraud in the granting of import licenses. As well as being second in command after Bouterse, Graanoogst was also chairman of the committee which grants import licenses.

Desi Bouterse said Saturday that he is pleased with the recent investments running into millions [currency not specified] which Shell and Billiton have made in Suriname. "These show great confidence in the political stability of Suriname," Bouterse declared. He also pointed to the aid worth millions that the European Development Fund made available for various projects earlier this year. Bouterse said Saturday that the cooperation agreement between Shell, Billiton and Suralco, the Surinamese bauxite company, had demonstrated the Surinamese Government's dynamic approach to a group of multinationals.